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tated Chechen capital. -A 12- to 15-storey concrete apartment block blazed out of control after a direct hit. Russian warplanes screamed Th Carolin Ca overhead, firing flares, as the barrage of artiflery and mor-Einstein, the for their han tar fire reached what appeared to be a new peak, witnesses said. of More had

In a sign that Russia may be preparing for a decisive assault on Grozny, a huge wards the city from the neigh-Russia's southern rim. "The operation fully to

Dini named new Italian premier

ROME (AFP) — Outgoing Treasury Minister Lamberto Dini was asked by President Luigi Scalfaro to form a new government Friday, the president's office said, Mr. Dini, a 63-year financial Friday, the president's office said. Mr. Dini, a 63-year financial expert and former head of the Italian central hank, said he had agreed subject to obtaining majority support. His nomination ends a three-week political deadlock caused by the resignation of outgoing Premier Silvio Berlusconi, forced to quit when his Forza Italia-led government lost the support of its coalition partners. The prospect of Mr. Dini being appointed sent the lira and Italian stock prices soaring shortly before the announcement was made. The currency rose to 1,055 to the mark from 1,062,65 when trading began while the Mibtel stock index advanced by 1,55 per cent. began, while the Mibtel stock index advanced by 1.55 per cent. Forza Italia spokesman Antonio Tajani said earlier that the treasury minister was "a personality who can tackle (Italy's) most pressing problems." Although politically non-aligned, Mr. Dini is seen as a conservative and a close ally of Forza Italia.



Fresh violence sweeps parts of Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish rebels killed eight people in a village in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir, while five soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash in the same area, security officials said Friday. Troops pursuing the rebels who fled after the Thursday night attack on Narlica village killed four of them and were continuing operations against the others, they said. Guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) attacked Narlica shortly after midnight with rockets, officials of the regional congregency rule based in Diyarbakir city said. They later elashed with civilian village guards protecting the community, they said. with civilian village guards protecting the community, they said. Two children, two women, an elderly man and three guards were killed. Six other people were injured. The emergency rule governor's office in Diyarbakir said an army helicopter crashed in the province Friday, but gave no more details. Security officials from the area said five soldiers were killed in the crash. In other clashes in the southeast, troops killed 20 rebels on Thursday in rural areas of Sirnak and Bingol provinces and near Midyal town of Mardin province, officials said.

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AMMAN SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1995, SHAABAN 12, 1415

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Mubarak

to visit

Jordan

By Ghadeer Taher

Special to the Jordan Times

King Hussein and Egyptian

President Hosni Muharak

will meet in Amman on Feb.

1, in the first visit of the

Egyptian leader to Jordan after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis,

Foreign Minister Abdul

Karim Kahariti said Friday.

hrief visit to Cairo on Thurs-

day and held separate discus-

sions with President Mubarak

and Foreign Minister Amr

Musa, described his talks as

'extremely successful" and

said they succeeded in re-moving obstacles in the res-

toration of normal relations

He said the Cairo talks

between Jordan and Egypt.

produced agreement on a

joint position vis-a-vis the

question of Jerusalem and

Jordan's role in maintaining the holy shrines in the occu-

Mr. Kabario, who paid a

Feb. 1

Jordan, Israel to speed up peace treaty implementation

Accord by Jan. 25 on speedy realisation of goals Rabin visit seen to reflect commitment of both sides

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's four-bour visit to Jordan late Thursday was a gesture of the goodwill that exists between the Kingdom and Israel and a reaffirmation of the determination of the two countries to implement their Oct. 16 peace treaty in all its aspects, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabario said Friday. Among the most tangihle results of Mr. Rabin's talks with His Majesty King Hussein were an agreement to accelerate the pace of im-

nian exports to Israel. This would include hringing forward the schedule of Israeli withdrawal to international borders as agreed in the peace treaty and Israeli permission for imports from Jordan even before the two countries formalise a trade agreement in May.

plementing the peace treaty

and early prospects for Jorda-

Also covered during the discussions were plans to build water projects that would ensure Jordan's share ASTINGTON (AF FOR water from northern sources. The projects — two dams/reservoirs and a water purification plant among other things — are part of the peace treaty that allocates an

addicional 215 million cubie metres of water to Jordan.

No progress was im-. mediately reported on the expected nomination of Israel of an ambassador to Jordan, and it was believed that Mr. Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres continued to disagree over the nominee. However, the dispute is expected to be resolved by next week and nomination made immediately thereafter. Shortly after his arrival by

helicopter accompanied by several high-ranking military officials and deputy minis-ters, Mr. Rahin held a oneand-a-half hour closed meeting with the King. The meeting was followed by a broader round of talks including Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qassem, Mr. Kabariti and Marwan Muasher, who is expected to be Jordan's ambassador to

Mr. Kahariti, who attended the expanded talks, said Mr. Rabin's visit was a gesture reflecting the goodwill" between the two countries. Mr. Rabin also wanted to establish contact with his new counterpart, Sharif Zeid. who formed his government last week, and to know firsthand about the views of

plementation of the peace

"We assured them that there was no change in our approach and we are as determined as Israel to implement the peace treaty," Mr. Kahariti told the Jordan Times. It also appeared that Mr. Rabin initiated the discussions on how to accelerate the implementation of the treaty as another sign of Israel's good faith intentions

Both the King and Mr. Rabin, in comments to reporters after their talks at the Hashemiyeh Palace, underlined the commitment of the two countries to implement the peace treaty "in letter

The implementation of the peace treaty is going "as scheduled," the King said, adding that he and Mr. Rabin reviewed all issues related to the treaty and aspects of the newly emerging Jordanian-Israeli relationship.

We are determined, both of us, to see that this treaty is implemented in terms of word and spirit and it is a foundation for relations between our peoples in the times ahead," the King said.

... We are determined, both we will keep meeting every while and then as we had

that progress confinues and to ensure that we fulfill our commitment to our peoples, a commitment we take extremely seriously and are de-termined to fulfill."

Noting that the peace treaty calls for Israeli withdrawal from Jordanian territories by Feh. 10, Mr. Rahin said he and the King agreed to accelerate the process and demarcate the international borders herween the two countries ahead of schedule.

"However, there are also other bilateral issues," said the Israeli prime minister. These included, he said, "solutions to Jordan's water problem... and security arrangements, hearing in mind that we are pulling back to international horders."

Israel will also allow imports from Jordan soon, he added, without specifying a time frame.

Mr. Rahin said it was agreed that negotiators would reach an agreement to try to accelerate the timetable for applying the treaty by Jan. 25.

We have to make sure that whatever we bave agreed on and we signed on will be impiemented in accordance to the letter and the spirit of the

(Continued on page7)

His Majesty King Hussein with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at the Hashemiyeh Palace on Thursday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Jordanian land is not under lease to Israel — Prince Hassan

Crown Prince reviews peace treaty, Jordan's ties with Arabs and objectives

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Friday Iordan did not lease its land to Israel but was allowing Israeli farmers to use the farmland, and said some Arab parties were wrong in criticising Jordan for that.

At a meeting with the chief editor and staff of the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily, Prince Hassan said the arrangement under the Jordan-Israel peace treaty was "wrongly called leasing because we do not talk about leasing but about allowing Israeli farmers to work within farmlands only.

"The Israelis do not reside on Jordanian land. These farmers reside in Israel and come to plant the land," said Prince Hassan, who is currently on a private visit to the United Kingdom.

Prince Hassan reviewed at the meeting the developments leading to the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty last October, the situation prevailing in the Middle East, Jordan's relations with Saudi Arahia, Egypt, Syria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the

situation in Iraq.
The Crown Prince said the

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter



Jordanian-Israeli peace talks agenda was clear and ready for implementation but Jordan preferred to wait for progress on the Palestinian track when the two sides were involved in the negotiations with Israel under the umbrella of a joint delega-

"When the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks split and the Oslo agreement was signed, we found that the best means to support the Palestinian decision is to initial the Jordanian-Israeli negotiarions agenda just one day after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was

signed," he said. He said Jordan sought to

start implementing the provi-sions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, saying sovereignty was one of the pressing issues and delineating the border was near and that redeployment will take place in February. The Prince said Israel had

started pumping 20 million cubic metres of water to Lake Tiberias to be pumped to Jordan in the period between May 15 and October. In addition, be said, 50 million cubic metres will be pumped to Jordan before next summer. Prince Hassan considered

Israel's recognition of these water rights as an achievement for Jordan, pointing to an agreement to build two dams on the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers and to start water desalination projects.

The peace treaty, he said was the official framework but the issue of implementing it and its annexes was the serious topic that would show the two countries' will to bring change on the ground. He said that will take most of the current year.

In reply to a question on Jordan's acceleration of the (Continued on page 7)

pied city.
The joint position calls for 'restoration of Arab-Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem and halting all Israeli measures aimed at Judaising the Holy City," the minister told the Jordan Mr. Kabario said Jordan and Egypt agreed that the conflict over Jerusalem and its holy sites must be resolved tbrough Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in the final status talks scheduled for 1996. Mr. Kabariti's talks in

Cairo came four days ahead of a meeting of the 16member Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of be held in the Moroccan mountain resort of Ifran at the level of foreign ministers of the member countries of the panel, which is chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco.

Mr. Kabariti said the Jordanian-Egyptian agree-ment on the Holy City means that there could be no change on the current status of Jenisalem and its holy places until the final status negotiations begin next year.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Navef Hadid on Thursday summoned the ambassadors of Arah and Islamie states on the committee to inform them that Jordan would continue its custodianship of the holy shrines in Jerusalem until the Palestinians are in a position to take over control of East Jerusalem as part of a final settlement.

Mr. Kahariti, who is gathering support for Jordan's position ahead of the OIC meeding, is expected to meet with his Iraqi counter-part Mohammed Saeed Al Sahaf today in Amman to discuss a joint position ahead of the Morocco conference. The Iraqi foreign minister will be stopping over in Amman on his way to the meet-

It is helieved that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), backed by Saudi Arabia and Morocco wants the Jerusalem Committee to name a body to control the holy sites in Jerusalem, Jordanian officials said.

"Mr. Hadid told (the envoys) that Jordan was against any widening of the current religious custody over sites in Jerusalem and that it will continue its role until the Palestinian Authority can practise its role there," said a Jordanian official quoted by Reuters.

Arah tension over Jerusalem was kindled when Jordan's role in the Holy City was recognised in the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty signed

met during the OIC summit in Casablanca, Morocco, in December, when Egypt was admitted as a new member.

caused friction between the PLO and Jordan during the

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan hails move for Mideast bank adjustment."

By Caroline Faraj Special to the Jordan Times

where the details of the prop-

osed hank would be finalised,

a senior Jordanian official

Jawad Al Anani, former

ninister of state for Prime

Ministry affairs and minister

of information, who led the

Jordanian delegation to the

Times and Al Ra'i from

Washington, Dr. Anani said

Jordan was well-qualified to

benefit from the proposed

bank after it 'improved its

ability to solve its economic

problems and implement the

said Friday.

Jordan was among the leading proponents of the AMMAN --- Jordan is satisproposal to set up the bank. U.S. President Bill Clinton. fied with the outcome of meetings held in Washington in an address to the Jordanian Parliament on Oct. 26. last week that decided to pledged \$75 million in Amerestablish a Middle East deican funds to the capital of yelopment bank to belp finance projects in the region, the proposed bank. and is looking forward to a follow-up meeting in March,

The European Union and some Arab states, particularly oil-rich Saudi Arabia, were initially cool to the idea, but later changed their mind, according to reports from Washington (see page 2).

Dr. Anani said a prepara-

tory committee would meet in early March to complete all the procedural issues related to the proposed hank and details such as the structure, objectives, shares, budget etc.

In a statement to the press in Washington, Dr. Anani:

"The Bank's idea does not come out of a void; it is rather a manifestation of an expanded regional paradigm. The Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) of the multilateral negotiations will have a

(Continued on page 7)

Settlers declare 'war for land'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli settlers have launched a "land war," ex-panding their West Bank colonies and huilding new roads to try to prevent the spread of

Palestinian autonomy.
"We are fighting a real war for land against the Arabs and we will not hack down," settler spokesman Aharon Domh said Friday.

With the Israeli army readying to redeploy outside Palestinian towns, the offensive began two weeks ago. Settlers first sent the hulldozers in to develop a hill-top site near the colony of Epbrata. south of Bethelehem, and work has also begun around several other settlements provoking Palestinian demon-

strations. These actions are aimed to consolidate our control over the land allocated to us by the state and to prevent Israel," Mr. Domh said.

Arabs from taking land from "Behind the settler operations, clear strategy and careful preparations can he

seen," said the Haaretz news-The settlers say they fear for their safety in the event of

under negotiation, and want to create secure blocks of settlement. They see the evacuation of towns by the army as a step towards Palestinian independence.

they had completed a new road between two colonies without any official approval for the scheme. The road which avoids

Settlers revealed Thursday

Arah villages will give greater security and attract more people to develop the settlements," said Pinhas Wallerstein, chairman of the settlers' council in the northern West Bank. Work began Tuesday on a

new quarter of Elkana settlement, between Ramallah and Nahlus. Settlers pulled up olive trees and fenced off a large tract of land 1.5 kilometres from the main village claiming it was government land although Palestinians have long farmed it. Soldiers forcefully dis-

persed protestors. Near Ramallah, settlers tried to create a new settlement overnight Monday-Tuesday on the site where an Israeli woman was recently

(Continued on page7)

best strategies for economic a redeployment, which is Russians in 'final' Grozny assault

GROZNY (Agencies) -Russia launched an all out air and ground assault on the Chechen capital on Friday carrying out raids on a key site south of Grozny that had been the rallying point of secessionist rebels returning news agency Interfax. Photographers who witnesto the front.

sed the air raids said they Russian forces also fought fierce battles with Chechen fighters in a new drive to seize control of the devas-

> not immediately appear to be any casualties.

roads in the centre. prevented the Chechens from sending reinforcements to help fighters defending the presidential palace, the bat-

Opposition to the military operation appears to be mounting in Moscow with Russia's State Duma - the lower house of parliament voting Friday to curb the military's ability to undertake "tasks not corresponding to their functions" - such as Chechenya-type situations.

Earlier, however, it re-

jected a stronger motion

which would have hanned the

The votes were taken during the third and final day of an extraordinary session of the Russian legislature focussing on the conflict in Chechenya. The successful motion.

passed by 243 votes against two in the 450-seat assembly, specified that unorthodox operations would need a presidential decree and approval from the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament. And funds for such opera-

approval by the Duma. Helmnt Kohl had telephoned has made 'positive promises'

AMMAN - Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has promised leaders of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) that respect for public freedoms and democracy will witness beard positive promises.' clear improvement in the coming period, IAF sources

IAF says Sharif Zeid

said Friday. IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansonr told the Jordan Times the pledge was made during a meeting that took place between IAF representatives and Sharif Zeid at the request of the latter

Mr. Mansour described as a positive gesture Sharif Zeid's invitation to the IAF to the meeting, stressing that the Islamists appreciated this step and would "reciprocate any positive move from the government" towards improving its strained relations

with them. The IAF delegation, which included IAF Secretary-General Ishak Al Farban and deputies Abdullah Akaileh and Abdul Rahim Okour in addition to Mr. Mansour, conveyed in clear terms the Islamists' concern over the "encroachments" on public freedoms in the Kingdom in the past one and a balf years. Mr. Mansour said,

"The delegation also clearly articulated our position on the consultations for forming the government from which the IAF was excluded," Mr.

Mansour told the Jordan

The prime minister, said Mr. Mansour, understood the IAF's concerns and stressed that "he did not ignore the IAF (parliamentary bloc) and will not ignore it. We

Immediately after the formation of the government last Sunday, Mr. Mansour expressed his bloc's unhappiness over being kept out of the consultations over the formation of the new govern-Sharif Zeid had met with

the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood movement. Abdul Majid Thneibat, and other Islamists before announcing the new cabinet. hut the meeong did not discuss the composition of the cabinet and Mr. Mansour said the meeting did not in-volve the IAF bloc.

But despite the positive impression with which the Islamists emerged from Thursday's meeting with the prime minister, observers did not expect the IAF to change its position on the vote of confidence on the govern-

The 17-member IAF parliamentary bloc is expected to withhold confidence from the government as a reflection of its ideological rejection of the Oct. 26 peace treaty Jordan signed with Israel, and unhappiness over its exclusion from the consultations over the formation of the cabinet.

ernment will be determined on the basis of its program-me, its team and (the prime minister's) exclusion of our bloc in his consultations over

the formation of the govern-

ment," Mr. Mansour said

"We cannot accept being ignored," he said. But observers saw in Mr. Mansour's assertion that the IAF would reciprocate moves for reconciliation by the government a reflection of a strong trend within the IAF which wants to end the movement's political isolation since the signing of the peace

They also said that Sharif Zeid, whose politics they described as being predicated on maintaining dialogue with all political trends, will work towards improving ties with the opposition. That, however, observers said, will not lead to any

concessions on the imple-

mentation of the peace

accord to which the govern-

treaty.

ment is clearly committed. And since the Islamists are also "concerned with maintaining dialogue with the govemment to serve the interest of the country," as Mr. Mansour said, observers expect an improvement in the relations between the government and the Islamists, whose relations with the cabinet of Mr. Abdul Salam Majali was marked by tenThe Jerusalem Committee

The debate over Jerusalem

Washington meetings of 37 coontries, described the proposed institution as a vitally needed facility to ex--- -- and a member tend financial assistance to e une 2 vans the private sector in Jordan and other countries in the " - "- " Wesmit. remark. Speaking to the Jordan

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STARK INTE think its souther of rubished of Rus

or managed flumn of reinforcements was reported heading tomethers when here are interested here are interested. bouring Ingushetia region on

force out and destroy armed bands in Grozny will be completed before the end of January," a military source at Russian military headquarters in Mozdok, just outside Chechenya, told the Russian

took place in early afternoon within a one-hour interval and targetted Minukta square, south of Grozny. Earlier in the day about 40 Grad missiles slammed into the square though there did

This followed a more than three-hour Russian artillery barrage with shells crashing into the city centre every 10 seconds. The shelling was aimed mainly at the Grozny railway station and the main

The latest assaults have

tered symbol of Chechen resistance, in central Grozny. In Moscow, the ITAR-TASS agency said Thursday that Russia had sent several hundred naval reinforcements, including seasoned marines, to Chechenya, to pour in troops for a blanket assault on the capital. Based

in Vladivostok in Russia's far .

east they were en ronte for Grozny. The reinforcements from Vladivostok followed marines from Russia's Pacific and Baltie fleets, who, according to ITAR-TASS, were dispatched to Grozny on Wednesday.

use of Russia troops within the Russian Federation except when the country was threatened by foreign forces.

tions would be subject to In a new sign of foreign concern over the military campaign lannched by Boris Yeltsin to crush Chechenya's bid for independence, Interfax said German Chancellor

(Continued on page7)

High skilled labour at cheap cost could be Jordan's best strategy

Survey finds innovative skills among managers, need for reexamination of export strategy and studies on Palestinian and Israeli industries

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the Middle East is slowly gearing up to take advantage of the di-ridends of peace, and im-provement in the technical skills of the Jordanian work force could be the most signiacant factor that could help the Kingdom's industrial community, a recent survey has found.

The survey found that in-dustrial managers appeared to be giving more attention to improving the technical capability of their work forces sather than change dramatic ally the marketing strategies of business or production

"A highly skilled manpower at competitive cost could be the key strategy to the future of industrial development in Jordan," said an executive summary of the survey made available to the Jordan Times. "It is one of the few assets that Jordan can develop in order to improve its comparative advantage in

But the country also needs tion of its whole export strategy if it were to realise its goal of an export-led econo-

The study was conducted by the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), a U.N. agency, in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Outreach Consultation project of the University of Jordan.

The survey, carried out in late 1994 among 84 small, medium- and large-scale industrial enterprises in Jordan, sought to assess "the strategies that firms may follow in order to face the challenge of the peace process." It said there was a pressing need for detailed studies on both Palestinian and Israeli industries to help Jordanian businessmen to ascertain the negative/positive impact of trade with the Palestinian ter-

The findings of the survey, expected to be released in full soon, come at a time when Jordan businesses are increasingly in the limelight economic opportunities that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty offers and questions are being asked on whether the Kingdom's industrial community is capable of ris-ing to the challenges in terms of products, equipment, technology and marketing after decades of traditional approaches and large dependence on the state for support.

Market analysts say some Jordanian husinesses have come up on the industrialists' own initiatives and they turned to the government for backing only when issues of legislation and official contacts were inevitable to advance their business prospects.

At the same time, the neculiarities of the regional markets imposed on Jordamian industries also made it all the more difficult for manay of them to implement

well-orchestrated production and marketing techniques because of the changes in the constants that were expected when programmes were first drawn np, according to

On the other hand, the 1990-91 Gulf crisis sparked hy the Iraqi invasion of Knwait might also have brought out the best in innovative skills of the Jordanian industrial community, says the executive summary

"It is well established that the environment within which Jordanian managers had to operate in the last four to five years was a very com-plicated and volatile," said the summary of the survey. That was a reference to the sweeping repercussions that the Gulf crisis have had on the economy of the Kingdom, which lost key markets in Iraq and found itself deprived of the traditional buyers of Jordanian products in the Gulf states.

The survey classified issues on the basis of interconnected but distinct factors that play a key role in determining the course of Jordanian industry. These included improvement in technical capability, changes in input, market orientation, the national economic restructuring programme, impact of the

Gulf crisis, and the challenges posed by the peace On the first count - improvement in technical capability of the Jordanian work force — the survey found that "the most significant changes were not in the hardware

aspects of technology but in

the software aspect i.e. the

human labour force." It said 86 per cent of the managers interviewed reported a "significant change. in the level of innovation and renewal within their enterprises, 74 per cent experienced significant change in the technical capability of their work forces and 92 per cent reported that this change

towards improvement." It is subject to debate whether the change was the result of a concerted approach towards shifting the focus of training Jordanian workers with a view to raising the technical abilities of the local force or the injection of quality brought in by expatriates returning from Kuwait or the natural outcome of a major crisis bringing ont fresh approaches from peo-

The survey said only five per cent of the target audience belonged to the expatriate community which has returned home. As such the explanation could lie in the two other factors.

On the second set of factors — changes in inputs — the study found little "significant changes.. in the production." It acknowledged that the main factor in this context was the difficulties that Jordanian industries faced in their imports as a result of the naval blockade of Aqaba --as part of international en-

forcement of the sanctions

against Iraq.
The blockade was lifted in late August 1994 after four years leaving a crippling effect on Jordanian industries in terms of high prices and delayed deliveries that scramhled production schedules. As a result Jordanian proudcts lost their competi-

tive edge in prices.
As the Jordanian dinar was devalued in 1989, depressing the purchasing value of the currency, the Kingdom's industrialists were forced to switch from their traditional hnt expensive sources to cheaper raw materials from Eastern and Central Europe. Turkey, the Far East and Arab countries.

"However, cheaper should not be interpreted automatically as lower quality," said the study. "Jordanian managers were fully aware that competitive products required upgrading of the quality of their raw and intermediate materials."

The study found the changing composition of markets for Jordanian producers as "both remarkable and disturbing" as the orientation for output remained at 75 per cent for the local market and 25 per cent for exports.

The fact that Jordan has heen openly seeking an export-led economic development strategy without that its whole export strategy has to be reexamined in a fundamental way," said the study. "In fact, some critics insist that Jordan, in spite of general claims, does not have clear and articulated strategy for export."

A disturbing trend is a policy of emulating "successful industries," leading to unhealthy competition among a large number of producers of identical products - particularly foodstuffs, plastics, chemicals and textiles — in a small market.

The important question is: How can Jordanian investors be told that some industrial branches are already saturated and who can advise them to search for new and more innovative lines of products?" said the study. It also found that another question that remained unanswered was whether Jordanian industries could interact and complement each other rather than compete with each

In the area of the impact of the economic restructuring programme under way in the country on the status of industries, the study found that there was a general consensus among industrial managers that the policies and measures adopted by the government had brought about broad stability.

Over two-thirds of the target audience asserted that the only significant change has been the amount of taxes they had to pay, and 95 of them said the taxation policies affected them negatively.

The strict economic reform programme helped maintain a monetary stability that was 'essential for the ability of Jordanian enterprises to survive during the Gulf crisis and its aftermath," said the

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli newspaper said on Friday Foreign Minister Shimon Peres secretly met the daughter of Syria's defence minister in Paris this week to push deadlocked talks with

It was the latest in a series of Israeli media accounts of secret meetings aimed at jump-starting stalled talks be-tween the sides. The foreign ministry declined to comment on the report, and Syria has denied holding secret talks

results of the survey, noting that the Central Bank of Jor-

dan (CBJ) managed to bold

the dinar under stable bounds

and inflation was also held

under manageable levels.

Furthermore, the drive to

curb imports helped indus-

tries have a high level of of protection against imported competing products, it said. Regional crises always had

impact on the Jordanian in-

dustrial sector, but with con-

trasting results. During the

Iraq/Iraq war of 1980-88,

some of the local industries

prospered as Jordan became

the focal point of transit trade

with Iraq in addition to the Kingdom's exporters finding

new markets in Iraq. On the other hand, the Gulf crisis led

to devastating impact on

many Jordanian industries

whose output was attended

rapid change increases the risk borne by... it may gener-

ate many opportunities for those who are ready and

aggressive," said the survey.

Marketing was most affected by the Gulf crisis

with all its repercussions, in-

eluding the blockade of Aqaba which forced changes

in approaches of many com-

panies, and some of them

that could not adapt to the

new situation were forced

"either to close down or to

operate at very low produc-

by some Jordanian managers

were a local consequence of

the main challenges they

were facing," according to the survey. "They responded

to the problems in marketing

and sales by a three-pronged

marketing strategy: more concentration on the local

market, diversification into

new products and seeking

alternative export markets."

In the context of the shifts

brought about by the peace

process, the survey found

that the responses provided

by Jordanian managers were

ambivalent and tentative

while remaining optimistic

despite "apprehension" ove

the "ups and downs of official

Jordanian relations and the

possible impact of these,

sometimes unstable and anta-

gonistic, relations on the pos-

sibilities of benefiting from

business relations with

"They would like to ex-

pand their sales to cover the

West Bank and Gaza.. .they

would like to enter joint ven-

tures with Palestinain

there was a general fear from

Israeli competition although

no specific studies were avail-

able to Jordanian business-

men. "In fact Jordanian husi-

ness managers are discover-

ing how little they know ab-

ont the Israeli economy and

its various sectors," it said.

in detail and to be more

familiar with various sectors

on both Palestinian and

prerequisite for formulating

strategies that are necessary

for the challenges of the coming peace era," it concluded.

"Such a knowledge is a

Israeli industries."

"There is a felt need to study

The survey also found that

businessmen," it said.

"The strategies followed

tion capacity.

"It may be noted that while

to the Iraqi market.

The mass circulation daily Yedioth Ahronot said Mr. Peres met Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas' daughter in talks meant to prepare a meeting between Mr. Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Faronk Al Sharaa.

It said a "senior Syrian representative" may have also participated in the meeting, which it said was initiated by a mediator who told Mr. Peres that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad wanted to convey a change in his

Asked on Thursday about media reports of a meeting. Mr. Peres said: "I don't know about this. If I had something to announce, I would

announce it." Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman described the reports as "fabricated and imaginative" and accused Israeli officials and

media of being behind them. The negotiations are stuck over the future of the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967.

Israeli radio reported Mr. Peres saw Nahed Tlass. widow of Syrian millionaire Akram Ojjeh, during the evening after talks with President Francois Mitterrand. Yediot Abaronot added

that the rendezvous took

place at the Ritz Hotel. Mr. Peres flew from France to Latin America on Wednesday where he declared: "We can reach an

agreement by the middle of 1995" with Syria. Arab sources in Paris told AFP that Mr. Peres had met

a Syrian personality. Mr. Sharaa on Thursday ruled out any resumptions of bilateral peace talks with Israel in the near future.

Peres met Syrian defence | Algerian parties sign chief's daughter-report breakthrough accord

main Algerian Islamic fun-damentalist group signed an unprecedented accord with most of the country's opposition parties on Friday urging the military-backed government to bold democracy talks.

In a statement described as a "national contract," the religious and secular Algerian opposition called for a national conference to be held as soon as possible to pave the way for free democratic elections.

The breakthrough accord between the one-time enemy groups was signed at the Rome headquarters of a Roman Catholic community the Sant'Egidio - which has sponsored the six days of

The authorities in Algiers have branded the mediation as "outside interference" and declined to attend.

The four-page document, a copy of which was sent to news agencies, was issued after the parties met for six days of talks here to draw up a common response to three.

ROME (Agencies) — The army scrapped elections the main Algerian Islamic fun-fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The document called for negotiations with the armyhacked government on a broad-based transitional administration that would lead to democratic multiparty elections.

But it said FIS leaders and all other political prisoners had to be released from detention and the army kept out of politics before serious negotiations could start.

The document, warning of

a "real risk of civil war," said Algerians were living in a climate of unparallelled terror. "A global, political and equitable solution is urgently needed to open other prospects for a population that aspires to peace, stability and popular legitimaev.

A French diplomat said the covernment's opposition to the talks and the nonparticipation of the most hardline fundamentalist formation, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), called into question the impact of the years of conflict since the agreement on the ground.

- -/---

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Saudis, EU more amenable to Mideast bank

The Jerusalem Post

ISRAELI officials expressed satisfaction yesterday (Wednesday) over the broad international support shown here for a new Middle East development bank.

At the conclusion of a twoday forum to discuss establishing such a bank, they also said they were pleased by the more amenable attitudes of the European Union and Saudi Arabia.

Asked whether the Gulf states will be forthcoming in helping to fund the bank, the finance ministry directorgeneral David Brodet, said: "I feel very good because what is the spirit of the meetings... is that eventually we shall find in this bank the Gulf states, the core countries in the Middle East and also the North African coun-

"The Saudis are basically more positive," he added, saying they came around due to the delegates' agreement that the bank would not extend "soft," subsidized loans, but rather only loans at mar-

He said the EU, which had been skeptical about the bank due to fears of American control, reversed course after being presented with a united Israeli-Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian front.

U.S. under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Joan Spero, agreed, saying the "bank was seen as a particularly strong option" because the four parties offered "unified and visionary presentation."

But she said the door had not been closed on other

The 37 countries and international lending institutions meeting here also decided yesterday to form a task force that will explore such matters as the composition of the bank, its equity and charter.

The U.S. released a statement summarising the session in which it called for all countries hoping to become members of the hank to first 'eschew direct and indirect boycotts.

The foreign ministry director-general, Un Savir, called the sessions "the most important meetings" on progressing toward formation

Saudi Arabia's agreement to consider joining the task force, despite not having endorsed to the notion of the bank in the first place, provided Israel's greatest sur-prise this week," he said.

"I think they realised that if you can't beat it, join it,"

The task force is due to meet here for the first time in March and is expected to deliver its recommendations by next October 30 in Amman, when the establishment of the hank is to be officially announced.

Any project to be funded by the development bank must be regional in nature rather than based in only one country, the Israeli officials

Brodet predicted that if the Amman conference adopts the task force's ultimate recommendations, the bank could begin operations as soon as early 1996. The funding sources are still unclear, though Brodet said 60 per cent is likely to come from outside the region,

Rabin's Labour Party recovers in polls

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party staged a recovery in an opinion poll published Friday, pushing the right-wing Likud back back into second place. Labour would garner 40 of the 120 seats in parliament, or 30 per cent of the vote, if a general election were held now, the survey for the Maariv newspaper found. The Likud would take 33 or 34 seats, or 26 per cent. Some seven per cent voiced no opinion. Last week, polls gave labour only 36 seats compared with 42 for the Likud. However, the latest survey would not guarantee that Labour would remain in power because its main coalition ally, the left-wing Meretz, was credited with only four or five seats compared with the 12 it holds today. Labour won 44 seats in the 1992 elections and Likud 32. The poll was carried out this week among a representative sample of 500 Israelis.

King Fahd phones five Arab leaders

RIYADH (AFP) - King Fahd phoned five fellow Arab leaders to discuss developments in the Arab World and Gulf, the official Saudi news agency reported Friday. The king spoke late Thursday to Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, Sheikh Jabel Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, and UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, as well as presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Hafez Al Assad of Syria. The king attended a summit with Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak in Egypt last month which called for a slowing in the normalisation of Arab relations with Israel pending a final Middle East settlement.

Israel to ask Britain to remove students from blacklist

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel will demand that it be removed from a blacklist of countries whose students should not be allowed on post-graduate courses with potential for nuclear proliferation, the foreign ministry said Friday. Ambassador Moshe Raviv has been told to convey Israel's concern to the Foreign Office in London and demand it be struck off the list immediately, a spokesman said. Britain announced last July that universities had been asked to join a voluntary scheme under which applicants for certain sensitive courses

would be vetted by the government. Countries on the list include Cuba, India, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Pakistan and Syria. However, a British embassy spokeswoman told AFP: "There is no embargo whatsoever on Israeli students. The scheme is voluntary and the government cannot prevent anyone from studying at the universities. There have been no cases involving Israeli students. "There have not been any applicants to study areas of concern, which are mostly nuclear-related courses." She said that the scheme was not linked dierectly to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is up for renewal next year. But the spokeswoman added: "If Israel signed the NPT it would no doubt affect the position."

Egypt's office in Gaza to open at weekend

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's representative office in Gaza will open at the weekend with diplomat Mahmond Korayem in charge, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said on Friday. Egypt's will be the fifth such office to open in Gaza, where the autonomous Palestinian Authority led by Yasser Arafat has its headquarters. The Egyptian office will also bave a branch in the West Bank town of Jericho, the other area under the Palestinian Authority. The ministry said the purpose in opening the office was to support the authority and follow up Egyptian-Palestinian agreements on trade, economic relations and cultural and scientific exchanges. At the insistence of Israel, which opposes the trappings of statehood in Palestinian-administered areas, the self-rule agreement barred full diplomatie offices in Gaza and

Czech premier to visit Egypt next week

CAIRO (R) - Czech Prime Minister Vaciav Klaus will visit Egypt for three days from next Thursday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Atef Sedki, a Foreign Ministry official said on Friday. His talks with Mr. Mnbarak, who visited the Czech Republic last July, will include Bosnia and the Middle East, while Mr. Klaus and Dr. Sedici will compare notes on economic reform, he added. Egypt and the Czech Republic have prepared draft agreements on preventing double taxation and abolishing visa requirements for Czech and Egyptian visitors, he said.

Save water... Every drops counts!

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO Cocotte Minutes Que Le Michuer Gagne L'Histoire Du Cirque 18:30 Les intrepides

19:00 19:15 19:30 20:00 20:36 21:10 ... Innovations 22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Country"
23:59 Feature film: "Country" PRAYER TIMES

11:43 14:32

CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tcl. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tcl. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590. Church of the Americation Tcl 637440.

De la Salle Church Tcl. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tcl: 622366 Charch of the Amunciation Tcl. Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Armenian Cathelic Church Tcl.

Amman International Church Tcl. 771751. Amman International Church Tcl. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tcl. 824328. SAAJAS.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Salats Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly with winds south-westerly light to moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly

Min./Max. temp.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 21 Humidity readings: Amman 56 per cent. Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN:

. 778336 Al Asema pharmacy . 637059 644945 acoub pharmacy . Naiib obarmacy Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773 Dr. Ziyad J'aitem

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

Water and Sewerage Valer and Sewerage
Complaints
Amman Municipality
Complaints
Telephone Information 897467 787111 (directory assistance) ... Overseas Calls ... Central Amman Telephone 623101 Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Electric Power

Company 636381 RJ Fight Information ... 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Akilch Maternity, J. Aran. 642441/2

Princes Bassus Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibu Al Nafecs Hospital (02)267100

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1) Jakarra, Singapore (RJ)
Aqaba (RJ)
New Delhi (RJ)
Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 17:55 . Frankfort, Vienna (RJ) London, Aqaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Paris, Damascus (AF) Cairo (MS) London (BA) Athens (OA) 21:55 . 22:60 . DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1) 06-25

12-45 19:45 20:05 20:30

Other Flights (Terminal 2) Beinut (ME) Vicuna (OS) Dubai (EK) 19:15 20:00 22:00 Larmeca (CY)
Cairo (MS)
Damascus, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES 200 / 120 ... 260/170 ... 180/ 120 180 / 120 450/350 Grape Fruit
Lemon
Marrow (large)
Marrow (small) 350/ 2R0 600/400 540 / 300 Pepper (hot)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amusus ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Danascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Amusus ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday





JANUARY 14, 19%

document called for sations with the arm, i-based transitional that would be said to said that the s istration that would to democratic multielections.
It said FIS leaders and ne: political prisoner

be released from de be Teleased from de a and the army kepton stitles before seriou attons could start.

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TO THE STATE OF TH There have s that the 17. - 12.22 Son Town here in at weekend English utice

Alaid have a --- -- 2015 PAR ---de rianes, none of Gomez Abscal. traordinary and plenipooi next week

emptions for economic proteam's spokesman said Jordan's central geographic location and its proximity ro western as well as Arah states makes it eligible for such joint investment schemes. He suggested that the two

sides set up a special commitjoint investment projects. national products against \$23.6 million worth of Jorda-

na in 1993.

The chamber said that

The statement said that

According to a member of the visiting delegation China is trying to bolster its trade ties with the Arab stares and launch joint investment schemes with Arabs.

Road safety group hopes to achieve progress with ministerial panel—Mohammed Dabbas

By Jennifer Hamarneh Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Jordanian Society for the Pre-vention of Car Accidents (JSPCA) is pleased that the government is looking into the mounting road accident problem and hopes that the Central Traffic Committee's meetings this week will consider a related draft law proposed by the socie-ty, said JSPCA President Mohammad Dabbas Friday. Mr. Dahhas, who

attended an emergency meeting of the Central Traffic Committee Thursday chaired by Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad, said that his organisation has, for the last four years, been seeking the formal creation of a governing body to take on the responsibilities of all departments concerned with traffic and

road-related matters. According to Mr. Dabbas, the various government bodies responsible for road safety continue to ex-

ercise no coordination.

He said the JSPCA had long ago proposed a draft law that calls for the creation of a "super body" which would centralise activities of the concerned authorities and issue ordinances and regulations and ensure that road safety needs of the country are being met. At Thursday's meeting

need to enact new legislation that would belp reduce accidents on the roads, including a point system for frequent violators of traffic laws and regulations. According to Mr. Dab-has, the legislation Mr.

Mr. Hammad spoke of the

Hammad was speaking of was not actually a new law but rather amendments to

the existing traffic law. Those amendments, Dr. Dabbas explained, are aimed at "closing gaps in

the present law and tightening it up," He said the proposed amendments are separate and apart from his society's draft law. On Wednesday, His Majesty King Hussein visited police beadquarters

and called on the government and the Public Security Department (PSD) to take urgent action to end the chaos on the country's Mr. Dabbas bopes that at another meeting of the Central Traffic Committee

scheduled for Wednesday, to which he has also been invited, he will be able to preseot the JSPCA's proposed law. He was open to suggestions and modifications of the draft document, and said he hoped

it swiftly for approval of the Cabinet and then to Parliament for consideration.

At Thursday's emergency meeting, Mr. Hammad said the draft law (amendments) stipulates that repeat violators of traffic laws would have their licences confiscated and traffic pelice would be given wider authorities to deal with any breach of the law. The minister also said that he would be urging the Ministry of Public Works to step up work on removing dangerous road junctions and improving the safety of

roads generally. Mr. Hammad said that last year drivers in the Amman area alone committed 20,000 traffic light violations. He said motorists are to hlame for the majority of road accidents.

The Central Traffic Committee will prepare short, medium and long



Mohammad Dabbas

mad.

term plans to stem traffic violations, said Mr. Ham-

He said a public awareness programme on traffic safety will also be given full attention.

According to PSD statisnics there were 24,799 road accidents in Jordan during 1993, but no figures were yet available on accidents of 1994.

Yemeni minister arrives for talks on administrative development

Accompanied by Minister of Administra- trative Reform Sadeq Abu Ras Friday

tive Development Moheiddin Toq, Yeme- talks to the press upon his arrival in

ni Minister of Civil Service and Adminis- Amman (Petra photo)

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Development Sadeq Abu Ras Friday arrived in Amman on a six-day visit during which he will bold talks with Minister of Administrative Development Mobeiddin Toq and other officials on enhancing Jordanian-Yemeni relations in administrative fields.

In an arrival statement. Mr. Abn Ras landed Jordanian-Yemeni ties and

stressed bis government's determination to promote them in various fields of coopera-

He said he will work during his visit on laying the foundations for signing a bilateral cooperation agreement in

administrative fields. He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan and Yemen were currently considering a dare for the meeting of the bigber Jordanian-Yemeni joint com-

On Yemeni-Saudi relations, which bave soured recently over a border dispute, Mr. Ahu Ras said there was an ad hoc Yemeni committee currently preparing a visit by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleb to Saudi Arabia for talks with Saudi officials after he concindes a European tour within the coming two

Mr. Abu Ras was received at the airport by Mr. Toq and

Jordan, Cuba consider setting up sugar refinery joint venture

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Cuba bave launched discussions into the possibility of setting up a sugar refinery in the Kingdom as a joint venture in which the Cuban equity could come in the form of raw sugar from the

Carribean country. The discussions follow a visit to Jordan last month by the Cuban Foreign Minister, Roberto Gonzales, who announced at a press conference at the end of his talks here that Amman and Havana were inxested in expanding trade relations and economic cooperation in various

Mr. Gonzales mentioned sugar as an item that bis country could barter for Jordanian phosphates and other fertiliser related products and said the two countries could also cooperate in industrial joint ventures and phar-

maceuticals. Ali Dajani, an adviser at the Amman Chamber of Industry, said the concept of building a sugar refinery in Jordan was discussed at a meeting between the chamber's top officials beaded by President Kbaldoun Abn Hassan and the Nonresident Cuban ambassador to Jordan, Ernesto

Mr. Abscal, whose official title is ambassador extentiary, is based in Damascus.

The discussions focussed on the possibility of setting up a refinery in Jordan as a joint venture, and the Cuban equity in the project could come in the form of raw sugar," said Mr. Dajani, "We are in the very early

stages of the discussions, and it would take feasibility studies and detailed discusrive at any figures related to capital, equity sharing, production capacity of the

Experts familiar with the sugar industry said the plant could cost at least \$80 million, depending on the choice of machinery and technology as well as installed capacity and projected output.

Cuba one of the largest producers of sugar, and Cuban technology, described as medium to high level. is rated as highly cost-effective in the area of refining sugar.

Depending on the capacity of the plant, Jordan could also export part of its ontput to neighbouring countries, Mr. Dajani said, adding that the Cuban side displayed keen interest in the project. . The plant could also pro-

vide much-needed job opportunities. Jordan consumes between 140,000 and 150,000

tonnes of sugar every year, accounting for about \$50

million of its imports. The cost of imports is expected to go up dramatically this year, given that international prices of sugar bave hir five-year Latest quotas from the

London commodity market are at between \$420 and \$440 per tonne, up from \$340 early last year. The prices went up because of severe edamages of Sugar cane crops in several key producing countries.

Jordanian-Cuban discussions on the proposed joint venture would resume egation from the Kingdom will visit Havana in the first half of 1995. Also expected to be discussed during the visit are prospects for sugar-forphosphates barter trade and joint projects in pharmaceuticals and bealtbrelated areas.

Mr. Dajani recalled that Jordan built its first cement plant in the 50s under an arrangement largely similar in concept with the propos-

al for the sugar refinery. Germans, who provided the technology and machin-ery, and the Jordanian govenment held 51 per cent of the equity of the cement plant when it was launched. The Germans have since sold their sbare in the company, and the Jordanian government owns controlling interest in the production facility situated at

Premier instructs government to implement budget

the committee would send

AMMAN (Petra) - In an official communique Friday. Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker instructed government departments to implement the 1995 fiscal budget in accordance with regulations, particularly those on expenditure, and in coordination with the Finance Ministry.

According to the instruc-

1. All departments must strictly abide by rules concerning the dispensing of funds, money transfers, and spending only on approved budget projects.

PARIS (Petra) - French

President Francois Mitter-

rand was reported as saying

that the Jordan-Israel peace

treaty constituted a model for

resolving all other issues in

A source at the Elysee

Palace in Paris said that the

French president made the

remark during his meeting

with Israeli Foreign Minister

Sbimon Peres, stressing

France's full support for

Arab-Israeli vegotiations

especially Jordanian-Israeli

and Palestinian-Israeli talks

According to the source,

France, which currently holds

the European Union's (EU)

rotating presidency, will ex-

pert all possible efforts within

the European Union to en-

sure wider cooperation be- hensive peace.

and agreements.

the region.

'Peace treaty is a model for

resolving region's problems'

exceed budget allocations.

3. All departments should take measures to reduce expenses and ensure the collection of funds due to the state treasury.

4. Departments should coordinate with the General Budget Department in preparing capital and current expenditure programmes, and that the Audit Bureau should be fully informed of any plans m this regard.

5. Departments should ensure that the earmarked allocations for water, electricity and fuel expenses must not be exceeded.

tween the EU on the one

hand and Jordan and Israel

on the other, in a bid to back

The source also quoted the

French-president as stressing Paris's traditional position of

supporting the right of the

Palestinian people in deter-

mining their own future,

stressing the need for quick

withdrawal of Israeli forces

and ensuring free, fair and

democratic elections in the

The source added that

Paris was seeking to narrow

the differences between

Syria and Lebanon on the

one hand and Israel on the

other for the sake of belping

them to arrive at a compre-

the peace treaty.

from the occ

Arab territories.

udget projects.

6. Departments should not take unilateral steps to trans-

fer funds from one project to another.

7. Department tender committees should ensure that no tenders are awarded before sufficient allocations have

been made in advance. 8. Departments should implement projects as early as possible during the fiscal year to avoid requiring any real-location of funds in the next

9. Departments with allocations for maintenance and construction should coordinate with the Ministry of Public Works, which must take charge of their implementation.

10. Departments should obtain moothly reports from the public works ministry on any funds spent on their pro-

11. Departments are not permitted to appoint new employees or purchase vehicles and equipment from allocations earmarked for other projects except by prior approval from the Ministry of

12. Departments in various governorates should coordinate with the finance ministry while adhering to rules con-

cerning decentralisation. 13. Departments should

conduct monthly assessments

of their financial status.

14. All departments should supply the finance ministry with lists of all employees and their salaries and the dates of their appointments by the end of February. 15. Departments which collect revenues must provide

the General Budget Department with full revenue state-16. Departments must keep the finance ministry in-

formed of any planned cooperation with regional or international organisations. 17. Departments should provide the budget depart-

ment with a list of all

government-owned vehicles.

nied here by Secretary General of the Ministry

Qatari Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary to the press at Queen Alia International Ahmad Ben Abdullah Al Mahmoud, accompa- Airport before his departure for Doha (Petra photo)

5,000 trees to be planted

AMMAN (Petra) - Amman saplings, he said, were distri-Governorate will celebrate Arbor Day on Sunday by planting 5,000 forest tree saplings in the Forest of Peace area on Naour Al Adassiya-

the Dead Sea road. The saplings will be the areas of Naour, Wadi Sir planted on the sides of the road to add to the sceoery there and to prevent land-

Area residents in addition to representatives of public and private institutions will take part in the tree-planting ceremony. Amman Gov-ernor Talaat Al Nawaiseh is expected to take part as well.

Similar celebrations organised by the governorate will be beld in other areas of Amman.

Director of Amman Agriculture Department Mohammad Lawzi said the department was currently giving priority to cultivating forest tree saplings and developing the highlands.

Mr. Lawzi emphasised that planting trees should not be exclusive to Arbor Day celebrations.

along Dead Sea road huted free of charge to the Ministry of Agriculture Afforestation Projects as well as to citizens to encourage them to participate in the

"Green Jordan" project in

and Yajouz where 1,500 dunums of land will he planted with trees this year. Mr. Lawzi said that already 22,000 saplings were planted in these areas and some 105,000 forest tree saplings were given to citizens for planting around their private

from winds. He said the department offers farmers casb and inkind assistance.

groves to protect fruit trees

According to Mr. Lawzi, the department this year started a new project to improve the incomes of needy families io the countryside by offering loans in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agri-

cultural Credit Corporation. The project aims to increase the number of goats and sheep owned by needy families, raise field crop production in areas receiving heavy rain, improve nutri-

of Fnreign Affairs Nayef Hadid, Friday talks Qatari official concludes visit

Ministry describes outcome as 'very positive'

AMMAN (Petra) - Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Hadid and Qatari Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Abmad Ben Abdullah Al Mahmoud Friday described the outcome of the Jordanian-Oatari Committee's meeting which concluded in Amman last week as very positive.

The two officials, speaking to reporters at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) prior to the departure of the Qatari official after a several-day visit to Jordan, said the meetings underlined the two countries' intentions to promote bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Mahmoud said the meetings achieved the aspired results, pointing out that the two sides reviewed bilateral agreements and means of activating them and

signing new ones. Stressing that Qatar was seeking better cooperation with Jordan. Mr. Mahmoud

bilateral projects. The Jordanian side, he said, proposed several ideas to enhance cooperation. "I will convey these ideas

said the two sides discussed

the prospect of launcing new

to my government 10 study them," he said. Mr. Hadid said the Jordanian side discussed conducting maintenance on Qatari aircraft in Jordan, an issue for further study, he added.

According to Mr. Hadid. Jordan has also requested that Qatar facilitate Jordanians wishing to obtain visas 10 visit Oatar and called for activating the role of the private sector in the two countries, noting that the issue is from the Jordanian side.

scheduled to be discussed by the higher joint Jordanian-Qatari Committee due to meet in Doha in April.

Last Tuesday, it was reported that the Qatari official has proposed the creation of a Jordanian-Qatari Bank in Doha.

Following a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Mr. Hadid said the Qaiari proposal entails 75 per cent Qatari ownership and 25 per cent Jordanian capital.

Mr. Hadid also announced that the Qatari official suggested the creation of a joint private university in Qatar which would employ mainly Jordanian expertise and staff. According to Mr. Hadid, the Qatari proposals were met with positive response

U.S. grants UNRWA \$1.4m for 2 new schools in Hittin

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Tbursday bad a ground breaking ceremony for two new UNRWA schools in Marka (Hittin) camp.

Attending the ceremony Wesley Egan, the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, said the schools will be constructed and equipped through a \$1,433,000 contribution from the U.S. government.

The new school buildings will replace unsuitable prefabricated school premises and will include 38 clasrooms, four teachers rooms, two multipurpose rooms, one library room, one computer centre, one laboratory and other facilities, according to UNRWA. The premises will be used

srooms, four administrative

by four schools operating on a double shift basis: two for girls, and two co-educational. and will serve abour 3,800 pupils, an UNRWA starement said. Ambassador Egan was

welcomed at the ceremony by Ele Saaf, director of UNRWA Affairs, Jordan.

were Musleh Al Tarawneh. Governor of Zarqa, Naceur Bouchoushi, director of education at UNRWA, and senior government and UN-RWA Officials and a large crowd of camp notables, residents and pupils.

UNRWA in Jordan pro-

vides 10 years schooling to more than 150,000 Palestine refugee children in 202 schools with 4,420 teaching

The U.S. is the major contributor to UNRWA's budget with over \$78 million for 1994, said the statement.

Jordanian, Chinese businessmen study joint investment prospects

AMMAN (Petra) - Jorda- tors and various types of exnian and Chinese businessmen last week explored prospects of launching joint investment projects and means of adjusting the halance of trade between the two countries which is heavily in

favour of China. Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, reviewed the prospect of initiating joint projects in engineering industries, electrical appliances and textiles with a trade delegation from the province of Kweichow in

southern China. Mr. Abu Hassan said the country's legislation offers attractive incentives to inves-

ral Centre at 8:00 p.m.

Art at 6:30 p.m.

SOUTH AFRICAN FILM FESTIV-

POETRY RECITAL

Poetry recital by Syrian Poet Shawqi Bagh-

In response, the Chinese

tee to follow up on ideas for According to the Chamber of Industry, China sold Jordan \$72.3 million worth of

nian goods imported by Chi-

dadi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and * Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra

mainly potash and phos-phate, China has been selling Jordan garments, domestic appliances, tyres, electrical, rubber and leather products and recording equipment as well as bed sheets, shoes and toys among other products.

Kweichow, which has 34 million inhabitants, produces electronic equipment, refrigerators, domestic and electrical appliances, tea and

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition entitled "Phase II- Doors and

International Hotel in Aqaba.

Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada

Dahdaleh. Also showing an exhibition by

contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al

He said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the department nurseries in Yajouz tional levels in rural areas area produced 1.5 million and increase red meat protree saplings in 1994. These duction.

Cultural Centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON * Exhibition of abstract art by Zakaria Barakat at the Housing Bank Gallery.

> * Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Founda-

★ Exhibition of works by Suad Khalil at the Royal

Present at the ceremony

seek. 2

Tin he drain he said

ZAILWAY TRAN

KET PRICES

Paramount Pictures Corp, producers for its tabloid TV

radio station Thursday accus-

ing them of slandering him. .

The lawsuit contended Hard

Copy reporter Diana

Dimond falsely reported in a

radio broadcast that there .

was "a renewed and 'red hot'

new allegations of child

police investigation... into

molestation" against Jack-son. The entertainer, the

target of a year-long child

prosecutors announced last .

sex-abuse investigation until

September no charges would

be filed, had emphatically de-

med the latest reports. After

promising to take legal action

Dimond a fellow Hard Copy producer Paramount which

show Los Angeles radio sta-tion KABC-AM and two of

its talk-show hosts. It stated

redress a slanderous, vicious

and wholly-fabricated story"

minute "X-rated" videotape

purportedly showing the sin-

ger engaging in illegal con-

Jackson had filed the case "to .

about the existence of a 27-

makes and distributes the

against "reckless members of

the media," Jackson made good on his threat with a

lawsuit that named Ms.

4.00

ت دچ -

-

-

show Hard Copy and a local

Truce monitors take up posts ahead of fresh Sri Lanka talks

Truce monitoring teams moved into Sri Lanka's frontline regions Friday as Tamil guerrillas and the Colombo government prepared for another round of peace talks, a senior minister announced

Energy Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said two committees headed by Norwegian monitors headed for the eastern towns of Trincomalee and Batticaloa to hegin observing the ceasefire pact which came into effect Sun-

"We will have two more committees for the north when we have Canadian representatives arriving here over the weekend," said Ratwatte, who is also the junior

He said the truce between security forces and the separ-atist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was holding on its sixth day Friday despite minor violations, which had been settled by respective local field com-

The minister said the government hoped to finalise dates for substantive political talks with the LTTE when the two sides open their third round of negotiations in the Tiger-held northern Jaffna peninsula Saturday.

The government's fivemember delegation includes two military officers. For the first time, the LTTE had

Simpson

jury trial

under way

next week

LOS ANGELES (R) -

Judge Lance Ito has said

opening arguments in the

double-murder trial of U.S.

sports legend O.J. Simpson

would begin next Thursday

The Superior Court judge

said he would first rule on a

vital defence motion to sup-

press evidence about the

football legend's alleged his-

tory of physical and mental

abuse of his ex-wife, Nicole

Simpson, an

internationally-known sport-

scaster, actor and television

pitchman, was arrested and

charged with the murder of

Nicole Simpson and her

friend Ronald Goldman on

June 17 following a bizarre

slow-speed police chase across Los

Angeles freeways which was

televised around the world.

"absolutely, 100 per cent"

not guilty to the charges. The

47-year-old celebrity had

been in jail since his arrest.

headlines after the bodies of

his 35-year-old ex-wife and

Goldman, 25. were found

lying outside her luxury

Brentwood townhouse in the

early hours of Jime 13, where

they had been stahbed and

slashed to death the night

The media frenzy had been

highlighted by gavel-to-gavel

television coverage of often

tedious pretrial court hear-

ings and a long jury selection

process, all leading up to the

long-awaited opening argu-

Judge Ito said those argu-

ments would be heard either

Jan. 19 or Jan. 20 depending

on when he ruled on the

marital abuse question which

he said would be either on

Jan. 17 or Jan. 18. He would

then need half a day to

address the jury and the I2

alternates, who have been in

sequestration, or court-

ordered seclusion, since

Wednesday.

Another half-day he said.

would be taken up with court

housekeeping chores in pre-

Judge Ito spent the day

hearing arguments from the

defence which wants evi-

dence of past marital discord

suppressed and the prosecu-

tion which wants the jury to

hear all ahout Simpson's

alleged abusive treatment of

Nicole since shortly after the

Deputy District Attorney

Lydia Bodin argued before the judge that O.J. Simpson

killed his ex-wife when he

found he could no longer

Ms. Bodin withdrew

allegations of 18 of the 62

explosive incidents made

public in prosecution court

papers Wednesday which she

said chronicled the alleged

pattern of abuse adding that

the remainder were ample to

prove Simpson's motive for

two met in 1977.

dominate her.

murder.

paration for the jury trial.

before.

The case made global

Simpson has pleaded

Brown Simpson.

to get

or Friday.

permitted the airforce to land in Jaffna, with a helicopter due to bring in journalists to report on the talks.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who signed the truce agreement with LTTE chief Velnpillai Prabhakaran eight days ago, expressed the hope that the halt in violence could be continued beyond the initial twoweek period agreed upon.

"I think we can go beyond two weeks and quickly get onto the political discussions, Ms. Knmaratunga told a small group of reporters at her Temple Trees residence after appointing the two Norwegians to head the monitoring teams.

Since winning parliamen-tary elections in August, Ms. Kumaratunga has vowed to grant "very extensive autonomy" to minority Tamils to end the ethnic conflict which has claimed over 30,000 lives in the last 23 years.

The two Norwegians, Au-dun Holm and Johan Gabrielson, were named by Ms. Kumaratunga Thursday to head committees which will monitor the truce, becoming the first Westerners to be officially involved in Sri Lanka's peace process.

The monitors are registered with the Norwegian Refugee Conncil, which sends people for ceasefire monitoring functions abroad. They have previously worked in Yugoslavia, Lebanon and

Mr. Ratwatte predicted the truce monitors would have little work because local military commanders had established direct bilateral contacts and were able to resolve problems without using the observers as interme-

"We have had cases of four armed LTTE cadres coming into areas near army camps. But we have settled these things and got assurances from LTTE field commanders that it will not happen

again," Mr. Ratwatte said, Previous ceasefire arrangements between the LTTE and the former United National Party government ended in failure, with both sides blaming each other for violations, and led to more bloodletting in the island's

Meanwhile, npaet Sri Lankan Buddhists said Friday they are stepping up their campaign to get Pope John Paul II to withdraw remarks be made about their religion before he visits this mainly Buddhist island next week.

The campaign is hotting up, and we have scheduled three public meetings this weekend seeking support for our stand that the Pope with-draw these remarks," Gallage Punyawardena, spokes-man for the Federation of **Bnddhist Organisations**, told Reuters Friday. He said meetings would be

California says flood

laration.

The waters receded enough in many flooded areas Thursday to allow evacuated residents to go. back to their homes to begin the task of cleaning up and

unrefrigerated food.

looting. Local officials advised resi-The estimate of damage from the floods which had been declared a major disaster by President Bill Clinton

NEW YORK (R) — He paints himself as an heir to Malcolm X, the legendary fireband of hlack pride in the United States, but in the last days of Malcolm's life he was

She has pleaded not guilty raised not to hate.

is heavy.

great man" and Judaism "a gutter religion."

Muslim newspaper Muhammad Speaks just months before Malcolm's murder. Mr. Farrakhan said, "the die is set and Malcolm shall not escape. Such a man as Malcolm is worthy of death."

lim leader Elijah Muhammad while Malcolm had broken with him and started a movement of his own, a movement

damage to exceed \$300m is sharply higher than figures

SAN FRANCISCO (R) -Property damage from widespread flooding in California is likely to exceed \$300 milhon, state officials said in their first estimate of flood

A series of powerful storms caused severe flooding in both northern and southern California this week inundating hundreds of homes and forcing thousands of people to evacuate.

Storms, high winds and floods have caused nine deaths in the last week, state officials said. "We expect the total to go

over \$300 million," said William Rukeyser, a spokesman for the California Office of Emergency Services. Mr. Rukeyser said the esti-

mate was preliminary and was a "ballpark figure" including damage to public and private property.

mentioned until now. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director James Witt, in charge of the federal relief effort, Wednesday estimate

damage at a minimum of \$50 FEMA said over 4,090 flood victims applied for federal help in the first 24 hours since the disaster dec-

totalling losses. Police from San Francisco

and other areas were on patrol in the small town of Guerneville 50 miles (80 km) precaution against possible

dents to boil drinking water and to avoid contaminated or

Farrakhan always denied role in Malcolm X killing

his worst enemy.

Now Malcolm's 34-yearold daughter Quhilah Bahiyah Shahazz — four years old when she saw her father gunned down in a Harlem ballroom - is accused of plotting to hire a hit-man to kill black separatist firebrand Louis Farrakhan.

and her mother says she was But the irony of the charge

During Malcolm's life, Mr. Farrakhan moved from disciple to arch-foe. Thirty years after the assassination, Mr. Farrakhan praises Malcolm, calls himself his successor and is treated as such by many in the U.S. hlack community who think he stands as tail and firm against white Amer-

ica as Malcolm did. His comments have stirred anger and pride the way Malcolm's did and like Malcolm, who once called John Kennedy's assassination a case of "chickens coming home to roost." Mr. Farrakhan has been upbraided for remarks like calling Hitler a "wickedly

But years ago his anger was aimed at Malcolm and the question Thursday was whether the past was catching up with the present. Writing in 1965 in the hlack

Mr. Farrakhan had remained faithful to black Musthat unlike Mr. Farrakhan's reached out to whites to join

in the fight against racism. The assassination was allegedly planned in the Newark Mosque of Mohammad's Movement and Mr. Farrakhan preached there the night before the murder. Malcolm's family has long thought Mr. Farrakhan may have had a hand in the kill-

I was not in any way involved in his murder. I did say those words but that's not the full statement. I said such a man as Malcolm is worthy of death and were it not for Elijah Muhammad's faith in God, it would have been so.' he told ABC Television's Barbara Walters in an inter-

view last year. In the interview be admitted he contributed to the atmosphere of hate that surrounded Malcolm and added. "I was hurt by his assassination. I can't say that I approved and I really didn't approve. I was numh. But today looking back, Malcolm would have been much more valuable to us alive."

In press conferences that white reporters are allowed to cover, Mr. Farrakhan praises Malcolm and cloaks

himself in his mantle. But according to a new documentary film, Brother Minister: The Assassination Of Malcolm X, there is another side to Farrakhan. The documentary shows a video made of a Farrakhan speech to his nation of Islam followers in 1993 in which he

Was Malcolm your traitor or ours? And if we dealt with him like a nation deals with a traitor, what the hell business is it of yours? You just shut your mouth and stay out of it. Because pretty soon we are going to be a nation and a nation has got to be able to deal with cutthroats and turncoats... there are certain paths you don't cross."

held in Buddhist centres in the southern towns of Galle and Matara and another at a ground at Moratuwa also in leader Deng Xiaoping's bealth has declined signifi-

cantly in recent months and

he is unable to stand or walk;

one of his daughters told the

New York Times in an inter-

view published in Friday's

The daughter, whose name

is Deng Rong but who has

written a biography on her father under the pen name

Xiao Rong, denied reports that the 90-year-old Chinese

leader had entered a hospital

as a Japanese newspaper re-

The comments by Ms.

Deng, who said her father's

health declined daily, did lit-

tle to dispel concern that the

Chinese leader's death was

The health of Mr. Deng,

the most influential of a gen-

eration of leaders who came

to nower with Mao Tsetone

in 1949, has been the focus of

intense international specula-

tion in recent months as Chi-

na prepares a transition to a

younger generation of lead-

The newspaper said Deng Rong's remarks about ber father's condition were highly

unusual for any relative of a

Chinese leader to make. The

paper said Ms. Deng, who was interviewed in Beijing.

was to travel next week to

New York and to Paris to

promote the biography. It

added she appeared eager to

pre-empt the issue of his

"I know the reason why

everyone is so concerned ab-

out my father's health -

that's very clear," she told

by day. People have to

understand that at this point,

This health declines day

the paper.

Deng Xiaoping

he's 90 years old, an old man.

And someday there will be a

her father can no longer walk

but refuses to use a wheel-

"He needs two people to support him... he feels that

after he sits in a wheelchair,

be won't be able to get up

She said her father re-

mained at home at the family

Xiaoping is healthy."

published to counter intense

rumours in the past several

days that China's reclusive

patriarch was ill in the hospit-

The picture showed Mr.

Deng sitting in a chair in

Beijing'a Zhongnanhai lead-

ership compund watching a

solved and only a few hun-

dred Georgian refugees had

so far been able to return to

He said that, in view of the

intensity and proximity of the

crisis in Russia's breakaway

Cancasus region of

Chechenya, where fierce fighting had been raging for

the past month, "it is likely

that political efforts to

address the Abkhazia issue

will remain in suspense for

But the secretary-general

said he was convinced nego-

tiations between the two-

sides were the only way this

complex issue could be satis-

wing UNOMIG'a mand

encourages Dr. Ghali to con-

tinue his efforts aimed at a

comprehensive settlement of

the conflict over Abkhazia,

respecting fally the

sovereignty and territorial in-

tegrity of the Republic of

It also calls on both parties

to comply with commitments

the time being."

factorily resolved.

Georgia."

U.N. renews Georgia observer mission

again. It's the natural order,

she said.

Mr. Deng's daughter said

day when he passes away.

ported earlier this week.

the south. "There are other protests planned of a religious nature but it would be inappropriate to divulge them at this mo-ment," he said.

Mr. Punyawardena's federation plans to lead a boycott of the Pope's visit on Jan. 20 and 21 if he does not withdraw controversial comments on Buddhism in his book Crossing The Threshold Of Hope published last Octo-

In his book, the Pope wrote: "The Buddhist doctrine of salvation constitutes the central point, or rather the only point of this system. Nevertheless, both the Buddhist tradition and the methods deriving from it have an almost exclusively negative soteriology (doctrine of salvation)."

Another passage reads: "Buddhism is in large measure an 'atheistic' system. We do not free ourselves from evil through the good which comes from God we liberate ourselves only through detachment from the world, which is bad.

The fullness of such a detachment is not union with God, but what is called nirvana, a state of perfect indifference with regard to the world," the Pope wrote.

1st U.S. soldier killed in

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) The first American soldier killed during the four-month U.S. occupation of Haiti died Thursday morning in an exchange of gunfire with the driver of a van that drove past a tollbooth without stop-

A second soldier was wounded and a Haitian civilian was killed in the incident. Three U.S. soldiers involved in the international peacekeeping effort, two in Haiti and one during training in Puerto Rico, have commit-

ted suicide since the occupa-

tion began on Sept. 19. But none had been killed until Thursday. second on an American soldier during the operation. A soldier was shot in the southern town of Les Cayes by an unidentified assailant shortly

after the Americans arrived. President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in a statement released late Thursday, offered his condolences to U.S. President Bill Clinton, to the family of the dead soldier and to his comrades and called the death a "deplorable act of violence. '

WASHINGTON (AFP) -

Republicans still relishing the

trouncing they gave the

Democrats in November are

now climbing over each other

to get their names on the

ballot for the 1996 presiden-

Candidates traditionally

announce in autumn, but

smelling blood from what

looks like Bill Clinton's lame-

duck presidency, many of the

Republican Party's top guns rang in the New York hy

Robert Dole, Senate

majority leader and two-time

presidential candidate,

pushed ahead on his long-

anticipated campaign Thurs-

day by forming a fund-raising

thrown my hat in the ring, but you could say this is the

first step," said Sen. Dole,

adding he would make it offi-

Texas Senator Phil

Gramm, a staunch conserva-

tive who has long coveted a

national political role, is ex-

pected to announce at the

end of February, followed by

former Tennessee Governor

Lamar Alexander and Penn-

sylvania Senator Arlen Spec-

Former Vice President

Dan Quayte has made his

White House ambitions and

his wife. Marilyn, came out

swinging at all potential rivals

this week, targeting Sen.

"He is not very well

thought of in the Senate.

even among Republicans themselves," she said at a

business lunch where she was

Mr. Quayle was recuperat-

filling in for her husband.

ing from an appendectomy,

out his aides have said he will

Gramm in particular.

"I haven't yet officially

getting a jump on things.

tial race.

committee.

cial by April.

Haiti

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) -The Security Council Thursday renewed until May 15 the mandate of a 136-member U.N. Observer Mission In Georgia (UNOMIG) where negotiations between the government and Abkhaz separatists are stalemated. The vote in the 15-member

Council was unanimous. UNOMIG works with, and monitors, a largely-Russian peacekeeping force of several thousand troops fielded by the Commonwealth of Inde-pendent States which is helping implement a ceasefire and separation of forces agreement reached last May 14.

Some 250,000 Georgians fled the Abkhaz region in ed by mercenaries and arms from Russia's northern Cancasus region, drove ont Georgian government troops in a lightning campaign.

The Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia adopted a constitution last Nov. 26 declaring Abkhazia to be a "sovereign democratic state."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in a recent report, said the core question of Abkhazia's political status remained far from being re-

announce his bid as soon as

are the "Newt for President"

And then of course there

be is back on his feet.

bid this time around.

concerning the return of re-fugees and displaced persons in accordance with an agreement signed in Moscow last April 4. It particularly urges

U.S. Republicans rush for presidential bids in second in the poll, followed by Mr. Alexander and former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp, who unsuccess-

buttons popping up around Washington, where Republifully challenged Mr. Bush in Mr. Kemp put out feelers can lawmakers have all but deified new House of Reprewhen he met Thursday with sentatives Speaker Newt political advisers, but he Gingrich. Mr. Gingrich is widely credienated himself from the party by coming out against California's anti-immigration dited with the mid-term win bill and generally failing to show proper party discipline. which delivered his party

from minority status for the first time in 40 years, but be is Wisconsin and Masunlikely to give up the glory sachusetts governors Tommy for a long-shot presidential Thompson and William Weld are also potential contenders. and California Governor Pete Wilson's campaign Moreover, his triggerhappy style has raised eyebrows among members of his own against illegal immigration has boosted his national pro-

bums" in Congress.

Chinton.

But for now Sen. Dole,

who ran unsuccessfully in

party - who are happy nonetheless to ride on his Governors, always popular coat-tails. Last week, Sen. Gramm among voters in presidential won a straw poll at a Republielections, might fare particucan convention in Louisiana larly well in 1996 if the antiand he immediately praised Mr. Gingrich's "Contract incumbent fever of the midterm elections continues to turn the heat on those

With America" platform as the party's manifesto. The poll gave Sen. Gramm a whopping 72 per cent of the delegate votes, well ahead of 12 other likely candidates. 1980 and 1988, is the favoured front-runner and a Those unlucky - and unrecent poll showed him running neck-and-neck with Mr.

announced - contenders were quick to note that Sen. Gramm, 52, was the only one so far to voice his intentions and pointed out that the senator lobbied the delegates hard for weeks ahead of the convention. "I'm not certain I'm a

candidate yet, so Phil Gramm is (and) he worked hard at ' Sen. Dole said on CNN Television, adding: "He probably won the first of a thousand straw polls we're going to have between now and the time it really counts."

Arch-conservative com-

mentator Pat Buchanan came

Some have raised concerns about Sen. Dole's advanced years -- 71 -- but hy 1996 he will be 73 and that age was no hability for one of the most popular presidents in recent story, Ronald Reagan.

Meanwhile, arch conservative Jesse Helms chaired his first Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting Wednesday but steered clear of any confrontation with the administration of President Clinton.

Sen. Helms, who said last year that Mr. Clinton was Korea's nuclear programme.

Deng'shealth has declined—daughter | Michael Jackson fireworks display in nearby Tinnanmen Square around the Oct. 1 National Day last

appear in public at the spectacular fireworks show sparked rumours at the time that he was either seriously ill or had died. Shanghai's stock

Mr. Deng was believed to be suffering from advanced Parkinson's disease and perhaps diabetes and kidney disfunc-

major hospitals. The diplomat said the

the same interview, defended her father's record and spoke of his past mistakes only where he has acknowledged

compound in Beijing.
On Thursday, the first pic-ture of Mr. Deng shown in China for almost a year appeared on the front page of a Shanghai newspaper beside the headline "Comrade The picture in the Liberatragic confrontation.
"It was a tragedy. No tion Daily was apparently

files \$100m slander sult LOS ANGELES (R) — Pop star Michael Jackson filed \$100 million lawsuit against

Mr. Deng's failure to market phunged as a result. The New York Times said

An unnamed Western diplomat in Beijing told the Times there were no signs of an imminent crisis in Mr. Deng's health, although Western embassies have in-creased their monitoring of

Community Party leadership had completed its preparations for Mr. Deng's death and was confident that it could manage a stable transition to younger leaders led by President Jiang Zemin. Mr. Deng's daughter, in

She defended her father's decision to order military force used against student demonstrators in 1989, but said China's inexperience in riot control contributed to the

Chinese person wanted to see something happen like what happened then. Many people died, both among the ordinary people and among the military, and some of them died very cruel deaths," she

the Abkhaz side to "acceler-

ate the process significantly."

Meanwhile, hundreds of

armed men gathered in the

Georgian capital of Tbilisi

Friday, saying they were ready to force the breakaway

National Liberation Front,

an organisation headed by

former Prime Minister Ten-

ter Tengiz Kitovani. Interfact quoted some of

the men as saying buses were

ready to drive them to west-

em Georgia, near to Abkha-

own military drive against

Last week the breakaway

Abkhazian government ac-

cused Georgian militants of

staging several "terrorist in-

cursions" onto its territory,

blowing up a power line and

kidnapping several Abkhaz

Abkhazia declared its inde-

pendence from Georgia in

1992 and defeated Georgian

troops in a year-long war,

unfit as commander-in-chief.

reserved his harsh comments

for the news media, claiming

that he has been demonised

in the press since his Republi-

can Party swept the Nov. 8

media have been busy specu-

lating ever since Nov. 8 about

the dark and dangerous

things that they are so sure

are about to happen," Sen.

wishful thinking... which almost always ends up being

wrong and it's certainly

Sen. Helms has disting-

nished himself in his 22-year

career as a firebrand anti-

Communist, a champion of

right-wing leaders in Latin

American and an opponent

of sanctions against the apar-

theid regime in South Africa.

openly gay cabinet appointee he called a "damn lesbian"

and pledged to reexamine

cooperation with the United

Nations, which he called the

of Americans."

longtime nemesis of millions

China is likely to be one of

the first places Sen. Helms

will part company with the

administration, pushing a

more sympathetic line on

Taiwan which is sure to ruh

Sen. Helms also opposes

U.S. participation in U.N.

peacekeeping missions and

was likely to use his legen-

dary parliamentary skills to

block diplomatic appointees

Sen. Heims was also ex-

pected to be much more cri-

tical of the deal on North

he deems too liberal.

Beijing the wrong way,

according to analysts.

He sought to block an

"Well, that perhaps was

"Our friends in the news

elections.

Helms said.

wrong this time."

with Russia'a covert belp.

policemen and women.

Abkhazian secessionists.

The Council resolution re- zia. The front has said it is

In her 20s WASHINGTON (R) —

Oprah admits

smoking coacine

Oprah Winfrey, host of the most-watched daytime U.S. television talk show, admittelevision talk show, admit-ted during a programme to be aired Priday that she had smoked cocaine in ber early twenties, the Washington Post reported. The paper in its Friday edition said Winfrey, who turns 41 this month, broke down Wednesday while taping a programme about recovering from drug abuse and admitted that Republic of Abkhazi back she had also used drugs. The into Georgia, the Interfax News Agency said here. programme, taped in Chicago, dealt with the subject of The men gathered outside women who have had drug the headquarters of the problems. Four mothers were the guests, including Patrice Games, a Washington Post reporter who has written a book about her own troubled life. piz Sigua and Defence Minis-Waterey's show, which has been nationally syndicated since 1986, is characterised by a personal tone. For instance, Winfrey revealed on the show that she had been raped at age 9 by a cousin, and then molested by others close to the family until she was 14. Deborah Johns, a. spokeswoman for the show. said that on the programme taped Wednesday, "Oprah made a spontaneous admission to mothers battling drug addiction that she had also used druga." Winfrey's admission came after a discussion with one woman, identified only as Charmaine, who said she corrently smokes crack cocaine, but isn't aure whether she is an addict because she is still "? functioning in her daily life. 3 the paper said.

Joplin, Zappa reach **Rock Hall of Fame**

NEW YORK (R) - Jains Joplin, Frank Zappa, Led Zeppelin, Neil Young, Martina and the Vandellas and the Allman Brothers Band were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The surviving member of led Zeppelin reunited to play several of their 1970s classics in celebration of the glittering ceremony at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Rolling Stone publisher Jann Wenner used the tenth annual induction dinner as the forum to announce the opening of the half's permanent museum in Cleveland on Sept. I, 1995. Soul singer Al Green, who was indicted into the Hail of Fame by Natalie Cole, began the show singing his hit Take Me To The River Melissa Etheridge paid tribute to Joplin by singing Piece Of My Heart accompanying herself on accoustic guitar. "She was the only goodess in a sea of rock gods," said Etheridge, who accepted the award for Joplin, who died in 1970. Lou Reed, believed to be fighting back bitterness over not being inducted to the hall as a member of the Velvet Underground, gave a speech inducting the late Frank Zappa. "I respected him and I know he respected me," said Reed after comparing Zappa to ... Andy Warhol. "I never wanted to do this," said Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant after accepting his award. "I thought we'd always be re-



Prime Minister Tomiichi

Murayama returned Friday from an upbeat but low-profile summit with U.S.

President Bill Clinton that

Japanese diplomats hope sig-

nifies bilateral ties are back

thing," a senior Japanese di-

plomat said aboard Mr.

Murayama's special govern-

ment plane en route to Tokvo

when asked his view of the

relatively low level of atten-

tion paid by the U.S. media

to Wednesday's summit in

Summits, the diplomat said, should not be about

high-profile friction but

should provide a chance to

exchange views on issues of

February's stony standoff

over trade, Mr. Clinton and

Mr. Murayama took pains to

put mutual security and eco-

nomic intersts first at this

tions are huilding a new post-

cold war relationship," said

an editorial in the English-

language Japan Times. The

summit "bas advanced this

meetings between the two

leaders set for 1995, comes at

a time when some analysts

say the bilateral alliance is

weakening due to domestic

pobtical woes in both coun-

tries and growing attention

by both to Asian nations out-

Japanese officials said they

"What we are proposing to

'How can we do that?

dination with respect to

North Korea, and progres-

sively we may add more

the agenda at the summit,

where the two leaders.

ernment was prepared to be

flexible over a constitutional

problem in resolving a debili-tating 10-month-old political

The opposition, headed by

Awami League leader Sheikh

Hasina, has demanded that

Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia step aside and

allow a nentral caretaker gov-

ernment to supervise fresh

LONDON (R) - Russia, the

countries have failed to ratify

a treaty designed to banish

chemical weapons from the

face of the earth in time for it

The treaty, which bans the

to take effect this week.

United States and most other

Mrs. Zia announced on

general elections.

North Korea in fact topped

The summit, one of three

effort in a rather quiet way.'

"Step by step, the two na-

Tomüchi Murayama

Pacific region.

back seat.

economy.

foreign firms.

mood.

car parts.

wield power.

DHAKA (R) - A Cabinet er lies with the prime minis-

that the Bangladesh gov- minister, no one can officially

minister suggested Friday ter. If there is no prime

emphasised joint efforts to

contain North Korea as a

disruptive force in the Asia-

Economic friction took a

Mr. Clinton played down

Tokyo's trade surplus and

hailed recent pacts on specific

sectors under the so-called

Economic Framework, a

1993 agreement which

spawned much acrimonious

debate. The president said

the surplus was "too high" but attributed the bulge

largely to Japan's sluggish

ched on the eve of the sum-

mit, to open Japan's huge

financial services sectors to

day welcomed the change in

of the U.S.-Japan summit was that it avoided focusing

on economic issues," said an

editorial in financial daily

Nihon Keizai Shimbun. "We

would like to welcome if

there has been a change in

the Clinton administration's

the summit did take note of a

remaining point of dishar-

mony in bilateral ties - a

sticky dispute over access to

Japan's market for cars and

Talks on automotive trade,

Minister hints at flexibility in Bangladesh crisis

which accounts for two-thirds

Negotiators have worked

late into the night trying to resolve the problem over the

past few days, with Mrs. Zia

saying publicly she would not accept a constitutional

amendement to allow Presi-

dent Abdur Rahman Biswas

to bead a netural government

But Commerce and In-

formation Minister Shamsul

Islam said in an interview

Friday that Mrs. Zia's stand

might be flexible.
"We can correct the situa-

tion in parliament. We can

make changes to the law," he

said. "There is still scope for

discussion about that," Mr.

Islam added in reference to a

Ms. Hasina led the opposi-

Chemical weapons, often

known as the "poor man's atomic bomb" because they

can be cheap and easy to

make, were first used with

constitutional amendment.

tion in a walk-out of parlia-

ment last February after

to supervise elections.

But while in a lower key,

policy towards Japan."

Japanese newspapers Fri-

"The special characteristic

He welcomed a pact, clin-

In a sharp shift from last

Washington.

mutual concern.

week's talks.

side Japan.

"I think it is a very good

on a sounder footing.

Murayama returns from cordial U.S. summit

JANUARY 14, 19%

was that you had been ್ಷತ್ತಿತ ೯೯೪ ಕಿ ಎ೦೮೫೩ military design of open ree in the condition ⊃ inns.! a transfer to the short. Wednesday, "Optal specifications admis met and the training drug n in and also inage Winftegl nn fame after a de woman.

n. Zappa

introduced in the state of the 1. 1005

ing, was signed by more than 120 countries amid much fanfare in Paris exactly two years een. sh

after two years once national parliaments in 65 countries had ratified the agreement. Diplomats said this was not now likely to happen until next year at the earliest.

devastating effect in the tren-ches of World War I. At the Paris conference the declared aim was that the treaty would come into force

They said only 19 had so far signed including Spain, Anstralia, Germany and Mexico. Many of the others who have completed ratifica-tion — like Fiji, Mauritius, the Cook Islands and the Maldives -- are bardly major

players in arms control. Russia and the United States, which along with Iraq are the only countries to admit possession of chemical weapons, had pushed hard to complete the treaty along with other leading U.N.

Diplomats said the reason in most countries was that national parliaments had pressing business.

fied the agreement.

been swamped with more

Pope energised by rapturous Philipines

MANILA (R) - Pope John Paul, apparently energised by the rapturous welcome he has received in the Philippines, showed little sign Friday of the ill health that has plagued

him for months. Officials said he ignored elevators installed at the Malacanang Presidential Palace and walked up a long flight of stairs to meet Presi-

dent Fidel Ramos. In the evening, drawn onto a balcony of the apostolic nunciature, where he is staying, by serenading choirs and chants of "we love you." he stood and listened fondly

"Filipinos have marvellous voices," he told the singers. The Pope and Mr. Ramos met alone for 20 about mi-

"I briefed the holy father on the social reform agenda of the government and my commitment to implement social reforms hand-in-hand with the continuing economic progress of the country...,"
Mr. Ramos said in a state-

A church statement said the two were expected to discuss the "boiling popula-tion issue," but Mr. Ramos did not say if they discussed in detail the government's birth-control campaign, which has brought him into

conflict with the church. Officials quoted the 74year-old Pope John Paul as - calling "unique" his recepnation tour that will also take out to barm the Pope. him to Papua New Guinea. Australia and Sri Lanka.

More than a million people turned ont to welcome him Wednesday and crowds continued to pack the streets as he travelled from event to event, erupting in cheers as he waved at them from inside

"Seeing him so close was a gift from God," said Lina Estella, 67, who travelled from Zambales, north of Manila, to see the Pope for the second time. She also saw him during his first papal visit to Manila in 1981.

A government minister crans for graft and the church said he was satisfied security for refusing to listen to its

Pakistani passport.

The Pope seemed to get renewed energy from a mass for youth leaders and a meeting with tens of thousands of delegates to the 10th World

younger members.

Chirac makes pitch for left vote

Mr. Yamahana told reporters. "But I hope the party PARIS (R) — Conservative presidential candidate Jacwill make a prudent judgeques Chirac sought to woo ment because such a con-French leftist voters Friday. siderable number of deputies calling for stronger action to combat unemployment and The 24 rebels - 17 members in the House of Repre-

are involved."

sentatives and seven in the

House of Councillors -

account for about 17 per cent

of the 138 Socialist deputies.

supported the idea of laun-

ching a new Socialist-led par-

ty with liberals and academics

- but at a more cantious

pace - is to consult aides

before the party's executive

committee discusses the

While in Washington be

urged a possible expulsion of

the rebels, calling the break-

away move "rash and imma-

Koken Nosaka demanded a

purge. But another Socialist

cabinet member. Labour

Minister Manso Hamamoto,

called on the party to refrain

from a "devastating quarrel."
Mr. Yamahana has reaf-

firmed his support for the gov-

ernment of Mr. Murayama,

elected as a compromise pre-

mier in June by a coalition of

convenience numerically

dominated by the conserva-

tive Liberal Democratic Par-

called the Social Democratic

Party (SDP), have wielded

the swing vote in parliament

since the scandal-tainted

LDP lost its 37-year grip on

power in general elections in

of disastrous losses in the

next general elections, likely

by the end of this year, due to

an electoral system they

themselves helped overhaul.

by power-broker and former

LDP Secretary Genral Ichiro

Ozawa, had governed Japan until the SDP bolted from the

group and took the LDP as

forced through parliament a

bill to replace multiple-seat

constituencies with single-

seat districts in a move to

biggest force in parliament with 200 seats in the 511-seat

lower bouse, against the SDP's 70, and 95 in the upper

tion, we all have to go back to

parliament," he said. "We

can't solve this problem on

Mr. Islam said the govern-

ment had made all the con-

cessions while the Awami

League had made none and

that Mrs. Zia's agreement to

step down ahead of general

elections gave Mrs. Hasina

what she wanted and allowed

the opposition to claim vic-

opposition to act as states-

men in the interest of the

country and come back to

Sheikh Razzak Ali has de-

layed a decision on whether

to accept the opposition res-

ignations, analysts and diplo-

mats said he bas thus gained

more time for negotiators to

hammer out a solution be-

members such as France, Bri-

But despite widespread

concern that weapons of mass

destruction could fall into the

hands of terror groups or

rogue states in an unstable

post-cold war world, none of

these countries has yet rati-

tween the two foes.

tain and China.

Parliamentary Speaker

parliament," he said.

"Now we expect the

The LDP still remains the

curb corruption.

house. . .

the streets.

The anti-LDP coalition

An anti-LDP coalition, led

But they face the prospect

The Socialists, formally

ty (LDP).

July 1993,

problem on Thursday.

ture.

of Japan's \$60 billion annual

surplus with the United

States, are set to resume later

this month after stalling when

the two sides failed to reach

agreement in late September.

agreed ro coopeate for the

success of the next meeting of

the Asia-pacific Economic

Cooperation (APEC) forum

next November in Osaka.

But they addressed no spe-

cifics on how Tokyo, often

criticised for an inability to

take diplomatic leadership,

would mediate members' di-

verse views on implementing

last year's agreement to tear

down trade barriers by the

Meanwhile Mr. Muravama

returned home Friday to find

ing on the brink of a break-

Sadao Yamabana, Mr.

Murayama's predecessor as

party chairman, announced a

list of 25 Socialist lawmakers.

including himself, who will

form a separate voting bloc in

But Mr. Yamahana urged

the party not to expel the

rebels, saying they were the

forerunners of a new party

which the Socialists hoped to

create for their long-term sur-

vival in Japan's turbulent

ty has not condoned any separate bloc in the past,"

accusing Mrs. Zia's Bang-ladesh National Party (BNP)

of rigging a by-election, evi-

dence she said of the ruling

party being prepared to do

anything to stay in power. The Awami League cam-

paign for new elections has

grown steadily more aggres-

sive since the walk-out. In

December and early this

month, it staged a series of

strikes that virtually closed

down Dhaka, the capital city

It has threatened to stage

more strikes later this month

unless Mrs. Zia steps down.

now up to Sheikh Hasina to

lead the opposition back into

parliament so a solution

could be found to a crisis that

bas worried businessmen and

foreign aid donors who fund

nearly all of poor Bang-

ladesh's development

budget.
"To institutionalise a solu-

But Mr. Islam said it was

of seven million people.

"I understand that the par-

political landscape.

his own Socialist Party teeter-

western Japan.

year 2020.

parliament.

The two leaders also

Construction

Mr. Murayama, who has

A new opinion poll, meanwhile, suggested that Mr. Chirac could reach a run-off against hot favourite Prime Minister Edouard Balladur in the April-May election, putting him level with or ahead of any Socialist contender on the first ballot.

Paris Mayor Chirac denounced Mr. Balladur for maintaining a "phoney suspense" about his so far undeclared candidacy and said the premier's policies were inadequate to confront France's social, economic and political woes.

Urging a greater focus on the underpriveleged and denouncing technocracy, he continued a populist pitch launched this week with the publication of his book

France For All.

Mr. Chirac, twice prime
minister, denied he was a sudden convert to leftist social concerns, saying his Ganllist RPR party had long stressed such issues. "Today we face a fractured

France, so this means we need a social aspect... it has become essential," he said in an interview with France-Inter Radio.

He criticised Mr. Balladur for holding out the prospect of cutting unemployment by a million over the next five years without saying bow. The number of jobless now stands at a near-record 3.3 million or 12.6 per cent of the work force. Seguin. Mr. Chirac sniped at Mr.

Latest polls show Mr. Chirac's chances of reaching a May 7 run-off against Mr. Balladur have improved.

A poll for the weekly Le Point, taken this week amid a blitz of publicity over Mr. Chirac's book, showed he would score about 20 per cent in the first round, up about four points from recent surveys. Mr. Balladur is polling between 25 and 29 per cent.

The IPSOS poll showed Mr. Chirac either beating or running level with any Socialist candidate, including former Culture Minister Jack Lang and former party chief Lionel Jospin. But the same poll showed

Mr. Balladur would beat Mr. Chirac in a run-off by 66 to 34 per cent. Mr. Chirac's backers reckon he would be able to pick up votes if thrown into a direct confrontation with the more reserved Balla-

The left has been casting about for a saviour since former presidential frontrunner Jacques Delors, outgoing head of the European Commission, decided last month not to run.

Mr. Chirac conceded that powerful Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, the most popular cabinet minister, was hacking Mr. Balladur for the presidency along with most of the centre-right cabinet.

The only supporters Mr. Chirac named for himself were Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, Culture Minister Jacques Toubon and National Assembly speaker Philippe

Balladur's boast that his government was the most reformist in decades, saying "the reforms that remain to be made are far greater.

Mr. Balladur says France is on the road to recovery, in stark contrat to Mr. Chirac's message that the nation is in

A Balladur-Chirac run-off would be the first allconservative contest since 1969, when Gaullist Georges Pompidou defeated centrist Alain Poher after Socialist Gaston Defferre had fallen at the first hurdle with just five per cent.

In a letter published by the newspaper Le Monde, Mr. Pasqua told Mr. Chirac, his longtime political colleague. that Mr. Balladur "appears to me the person best placed to defend our ideas and unite broad majority of the French peoples.

Mr. Pasqua said in the letter he had taken his decision in the national interest and would try to preserve the unity of the Gaullist RPR movement, to which Mr. Chirac and Mr. halladur also belong.

"I will act with the firm intention of working, when the moment comes, to reunite all those who belong (to the Gaullist movement). so that the victory of one of our people does not translate into a defeat for the others."

Political commentators said Mr. Pasqua was hoping to obtain the premiership in exchange for supporting Mr. Balladur's bid.

Mr. Pasqua campaigned strongly towards the end of last year for U.S.-style primary elections to be held to choose a single candidate for the French right before the election campaigns themselves begin. But to no avail.

"Edouard Balladu: and you took the decision to stand, and it is not for me to judge that. You know how much I regret this situation," Ms. Pasqua said in the letter. dated Thursday.

"All Gaullists are therefore confronted with a choice and a decision which is difficult and has serious consequences." he wrote.

Recalling that he had sup-ported Mr. Chirac in 1974 elections, Mr. Pasqua said he had done so because he believed Mr. Chirac was the mostly likely candidate to win for the French right.

"For the same reasons which have made me follow you since 1974. I have decided to give my support to Edouard Balladur... I want, in this campaign, to safeguard the unity and the future of our movement, which takes precedence over the fate of each of us individually.

"I am telling you my decision privately before making it public. I know that you understand the reasons, and above all that which has always inspired us: The interest of the country must come

The letter enoed. "Yours in All Friendship, My Dear

Rao says up to India, Pakistan to end Kashmir row

Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said Friday India would accept U.S. help in settling a dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, but that the two countries would eventually have to resolve differences

themselves. U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Thursday Washington hoped that by forging closet ties with both Pakistan and India it could help the longtime foes avoid

a fourth, and catastrophic, Mr. Rao was asked by a reporter before the start of a

NEW DELHI (R) - Prime day if the United States had a role to play in helping India and Pakistan resolve their

dispute over Kashmir. We take help from everywhere. All friends help, offer help." Mr. Rao said. "But eventually it's India and Pakistan who have to settle it themselves."

India and Pakistan, which bave fought three wars since 1947, both stake a claim to

Pakistan wants the issue to be settled through a United Nations-sponsored plebiscite. India rejects a plebiscite and talks, as agreed by the countries' leaders in 1972.

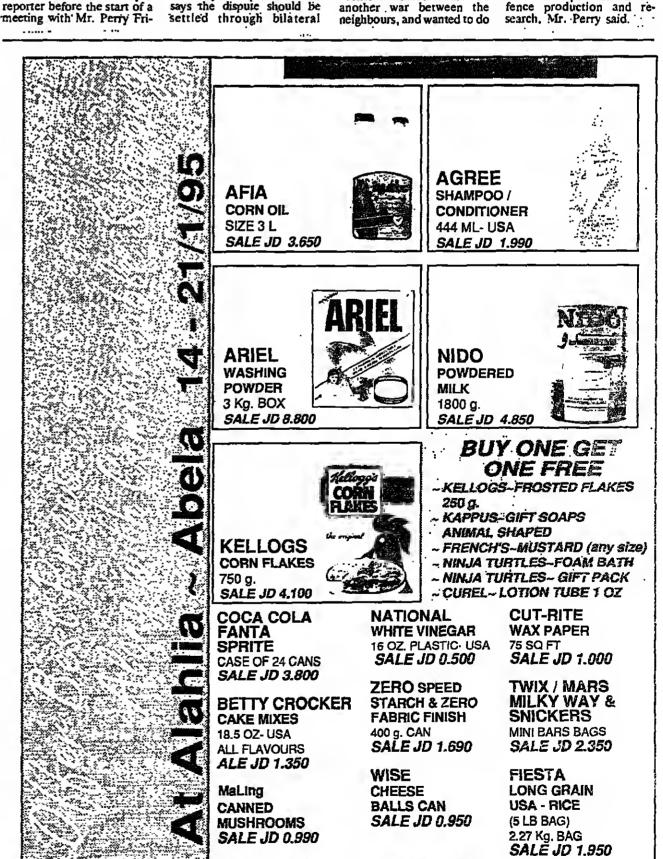
Indian Armed Forces in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir have been fighting Muslim rebels who launched a rebellion four years ago in which more than 17,000 people have been kil-

India accuses Pakistan of training and arming the separatists, Islamabad says it offers only political and un-

plomatic support. Mr. Perry said Thursday that the United States was "fearful" there could be another war between the everything it could to reduce the risk.

The U.S. Defence Secret. ary said that by visiting Pakistan and India this week he hoped to help improve relations with both countries so they would consider the United States a trusteo friend. Mr. Perry said he delivered

a letter from U.S. President Siil Clinton to Mr. Rao. Mr. Clinton urged the Indian leader to support an agreement India and the United States signed Thursday calling for stronger military ties and increased cooperation in de-



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mber no charges would ad had emphatically de he latest reports. Alle nd a fellow Hard Concer Paramount who

king coacine

hoped the summit would start a process of discussions aimed at strengthening ties. the U.S. government (is that) we should like to have a more constructive and positive relationship." Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada told reporters in Washington after the summit. Partly throngb enbanced global cooperation," Mr. Terada said. "At the same we maintain interest in having more policy coordination. A good example of that is coor-

ne Four motten auf 11 G. In Cluding Pane , a Marrington Per t with the writer ುದೇ ಕರ್ಮ ಬಳ್ಳ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಿತ ಮೇ ומונים ביי ביי ביי ביי ביי ביי See . : charactesor metical court forms

Dec. 29, a day after the of of N in Charmana. opposition submitted resigna-... ver gurtenth tions from parliament en orthigh cocame, but masse, that she was ready to step down 30 days before harana da s 👊 general elections due in 1996. -- : 1- : :: iaily fie. That left an nnresolved constitutional problem if Mrs. Zia's offer was accepted by the opposition, which has

so far rejected it. The constitution says executive pow-Russia, U.S. and others fail on chemical arms pact

Hall of Fame

Topa Let Vandelle Brothen

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use, production, and storage of chemical weapons and provides for tough verification measures to prevent cheat-No Line Cole legal nis hit Take Melise =2:3 := hute 10 lb

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award in

1070 Los TERDIA iginess ovel the hall as he Velve linder seech induct

Speeching of the control of the cont to the singing. his award. nutes, seeking through personal contact to heal a rift between state and church in Asia's only Christian coun-

ment.

his armoured "popernobile."

was sufficient, despite a hunt

tion in the Philippines, the for a man of Palestinian orifirst stop in a gruelling four- gin named as head of a gang

> Senior security sources said agents were hunting Abdul Mahmood Abdul Karim, a 26-year-old electronics expert, and his Filipina girlfriend. They said he carried a

Youth Day.

He stood for a long time during a mass for foreign and Filipino youth leaders and paid close attention as a student leader attacked politicians for graft and the church

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Nuclear double standards

RECENT REPORTS about a Russian agreement to complete an Iranian nuclear facility at a cost of \$800 million must have alarmed many governments for fear that the Iranian nuclear programme could end up becoming military. We can understand and even sympathise with the regional and international anxiety over the apparent determination of Tehran to go nuclear. What we cannot comprehend though is the double standards being observed on this issue under which some countries seem to have a sacrosanct right to develop and possess nuclear weapons and others which cannot.

We are not thinking only about Israel's acquisition of nuclear bombs, but generally about the whole nuclear club which seems to be a privileged association for some of the countries and not for others. If there is something awful about developing mass destruction arsenals, then it should be terrible for all the states that still have them and not serve only as grounds to prevent others from enjoying the same capability. There had been considerable noise made about India and Pakistan going nuclear. Before these two countries there was an equal concern about China's nuclear programme. The international fury about these three countries have since subsided after it became amply clear that they insist on the application of one single standard on all countries of the world. Belatedly, the alarm was sounded against North Korea's plan to develop its nuclear capability as well. To be sure, other countries in Latin America are also on the verge of having their own nuclear bombs for one reason or another. Africa and the Middle East cannot be expected to lag behind forever unless and until a more satisfactory system of nuclear control is articulated and executed in a fair manner. Above all, there is no more room for a double standard in this context. We either outlaw all mass destruction weapons including nuclear warheads or we do not ever. But to keep on preaching the gospel that certain countries can possess them is simply no effective way to reverse nuclear proliferation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE QATARI foreign ministry's undersecretary's visit to Jordan reflects the reality that Qatar and Jordan continue to maintain strong brotherly relations regardless of inter-Arab differences and the consequences of the Gulf crisis. said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said relations between Jordan and Qatar continue to prosper with new protocols that regulate cultural, economic and political relations and this was reaffirmed by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in his talks with the Qatari official this week. The Qatari official's statement that his country was counting on close cooperation with Jordan and his suggestion that the two countries set up a joint bank and a joint university displays Doha's resolve to bolster inter-Arab ties and shows that Qatari rulers respect and appreciate Jordan's policies at all levels, added the daily. In order to further bolster bilateral ties, the two countries are now involved in preparing the ground for the higher joint committee meeting in Doha in April, said the daily, which expressed belief that these strong ties would open the door wide for Jordanian-Gulf ties to prosper.

AL DUSTOUR daily bitterly criticised Israel for refusing to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. There is no justification for Israel not to sign the treaty which has been accepted by all other countries of the Middle East, stressed the paper. Israel is rumoured to possess at least 200 nuclear warheads, which are used to threaten Arab states and exercise pressure on them to make peace with the Jewish state, said the paper. It is ironic to see Israel demanding that countries as far away from Tel Aviv as Iran halt their nuclear programmes while it persists on rejecting the Non-Proliferation Treaty, continued the paper. The paper said that the atmosphere of peace should not be marred or allowed to be poisoned by Israel's adamant stand. Real peace, it said, requires the Jewish state to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities and join the Arab states in seeking a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

King, Rabin talks confirm commitment to peace accord

NO DOUBT Israeli Prime Minister Yttzhak Rabin's visit to Amman and his talks with His Majesty King Hussein late Thursday served as a reaffirmation of Israeli and Jordanian commitment to implementing the Oct. 26 peace treaty the two countries signed. Comments made by His Majesty and Mr. Rabin after their talks clearly indicated this to be the case. As we also understand, Mr. Rabin wanted to touch base with the new government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and discuss means to accelerate the implementation of the

Mr. Rabin's visit itself was a resounding reminder to everyone that Jordan and Israel are also determined to make good their pledge not to allow peace between them to be a cold peace. The visit was arranged in a matter of hours in direct contacts between King Hussein and the Israeli prime minister and there appeared to have little in the way of protocol or any other delicacies that stood in the way of the head of a government of a country with which Jordan is at peace flying into the Kingdom and leaving after a round of cordial talks as the case should be in any event. What is of immediate interest to the man of the street in

Jordan is whether the visit helped advance the cause of improving his lot, and whether Mr. Rabin's talks with the King covered any of those issues. But then, the reality remains that the peace treaty on its own is no document that guarantees economic returns of peace; it is something that restores Jordan's territorial and water rights, ending decades of tensions and apprehension as to the intentions of Israel, where hardline Likudniks had been touting the "Jordan-is-Palestine" theory.

Beyond that, it is largely up to Jordan and Jordanians to work towards achieving the national economic objectives in the climate of peace, stability and security that was brought in by the peace treaty. And that is where we all should focus on. Quite realistically, we simply cannot expect anyone to dump millions of dollars in our country and hope to pick up from there.

First and foremost, capital does not come to any country for sentimental reasons. Sound business logic and hopes of lucrative returns unimpeded by government controls and bureaucracy are the factors that would prompt any such, we have to look inwards and see whether Jordan, as a country, government and people, offers such facilities. Sadly, we have to go a long way ahead before we could say that. However, as we can judge from the hectic pace of work conducted by the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation chained by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, we have taken major strides, but the pace of the moves from that point is lacking in speed.

Hopefully, the government of Sharif Zeid and Parliament would move quickly to endorse and enact the necessary amendments to legislation and new laws that offer high incentives to investors, both local and foreign. As experts repeatedly affirm, the race for international capital is getting too fierce and it would take an extra effort on the part of Jordan to invite some of the moving capital into investments in the Kingdom.

At the same time, it was heartening to hear Mr. Rabin talking about quick moves to arrive at a trade agree and predict that Jordan would soon be able to export its products to Israel. That is one area where Jordan would have a slight edge if its private and public sectors adopt careful steps and adopt a determined approach that addresses the quality requirements of Israeli importers.

On the political front, it is a safe assumption that Mr. Rabin discussed with King Hussein the problems Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are facing in implementing their autonomy accord and that the Israeli prime minister sought to benefit from the viewpoints of His Majesty. While Jordan has no direct role in the affair, it is only true that Mr. Rabin would like to draw from the immense experience of the King as the best conceptual means to go about doing it. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is reportedly due in Jordan soon after months of speculation over the state of ties between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), might also want to hear the King's views on the issue (at least that is what one would expect Mr. Arafat to do in an atmosphere of coherent relations and coordination for the benefit of Palestinians and Jordanians).



People expect new government to keep its promises

By Elia Nasrallah

M. KAHIL

THE LOCAL Arabic press tackled a variety of topics in the past week in editorials and in columnists' articles. These mainly focused on the formation and mission of the new government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, domestie issues, pan-Arab affairs and the peace pro-

In discussing the new government, Saleh Al Qallab, a writer in Al Dustour said that Jordanians expect the new government to keep its promises to the public. The writer said that in light of past experiences, one cannot expect every-thing to be carried out due to delays by Parliament in ratification of laws. We expect from the new government at least the minimum level of action in dealing with all abuses and violations of democracy, corruption and soaring prices, said the writer. He said the new government also ought to give due attention to the farmers and their problems and other issues of which the new prime minister is

fully aware. This view was echoed by Hussein Abu Rumman, a writer in Al Ra'i, who said the public wants the government to deal promptly with the economic situation and the soaring prices as well as the deterioration in the democratic process in the country. The writer said that His Majesty the King's letter of designation to the new government was comprehensive and pointed out a great deal of tasks that should be implemented to bolster the role of institutions and ensure the rule of law. These, he said, require relentless efforts from the

new government. Ali Safadi, a writer in Al Dustour, demanded that the new government ensure

soaring prices and improve the social environment as a whole. The writer said that most citizens are optimistic that the many promises that . have been given them be-fore would be fulfilled by the new government, especially as it is apparently supported by the majority of the Lower House of Parliament members.

Mohammad Ibrabim Daoud, a writer in Al Dusthere is a confusion in these timetables for the families who might have some children in the unversity and others in schools. The present situation does not give time or chance to the beads of these families to plan for vacations.

Nazih Oousus, a writer in Sawt Al Shaab, drew attention to the collapse of the bridge near the Seventh Circle, describing that as a dangerous incident. He said

THE WEEK IN PRINT

tour, said that the prime minister has promised a complete overhaul of the social, political and economic situation in the country. Statements and promises are one thing but keeping them is another and the new government is called on to realise all its promises and bolster its relations with the legislative authority to achieve that aim, said the writer. He said that every one expects the government to commit itself to ensuring social justice and

equality among the public. Poverty and unemployment are the main issues facing the new government and these can only be so addressed through the application of an open economic policy without any complication, said Ahmad Shaker, a writer in Al Dustour. The government includes a good number of experienced members who had served in former governments and these, he added, can no doubt enable Sharif Zeid to carry out his programmes with confi-

Hayat Attiyeb, a writer in Al Dustour, drew attention to the fact that schools and universities have diffe-"" programmes for midyear or end of year holidays. The writer said that

that full investigation ought to be conducted not only by the Amman Mnnicipality, which is sponsoring the project, also by the contractors and engineers associations which issue licences for such projects and approve the qualifications of engineers and consultancy offices. Collapse of a building in Nazzal district recently also points to some defects in laws governing the construction business in Jordan, he added.

Munes Razzaz, a writer in Al Dustour, commented on the outcome of a meeting beld by Arab interior ministers in Tonis and their statements reflecting their determination to deal severely with acts of violence and extremism. The writer said the conference ought to have been attended by Arab ministers in charge of their respective countries' economies because they were needed there to point out that violence and extremism is a natural outcome of the disorganisation of economies, social issues and corruption. Dealing with terrorism through security means alone can never achieve any result and the Arab states ought to give due attention to the reasons behind violent; acis

Tareq Masarweb said that the Jordanian people support the Chechens in their desperate fight for freedom. The columnist, wbo writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that the Chechens are seeking freedom and independence and end of hegemony in all matters; and through their beroic stand they are winning the sympathy and support of the majority of nations, he

The Chechens require from Jordan not mere words of support because sympathy does not belp their struggle for freedom to end successfully, said Issa Shneibi in Al Dustour. The writer said that Jordamans ought to arrange for meaningful and material support for the Chechens as soon as possible to help them fight off he aggres-

Commenting on Israeb Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Jordan, a writer in Al Ra'i said that Jordanians are largely dis-appointed with the slow pace of the peace process and are frustrated for not seeing any good results of the peace treaty with the Jewish state. Sultan Al Hattab said that numerous issues seem to be still sus-pended in the air and nothing has been achieved on the ground since the signing of the treaty last October. Furthermore, Jordan's port of Aqaba is suffering because the peace treaty allowed the visitors coming through Israel or Israeli tourists to visit Petra and Wadi Rum and return to Israel to stay in its hotels, said the writer. He said that Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinians and the delay in implementation of the Oslo agreement have been causing so much frosseration to the Jordanian

Ties that bind cypriots become Source of discord By Michael Jansen accused Greek Cypri

NICOSIA - Twenty years of de facto political partition has not produced a complete physical division of Cyprus. Indeed, the island is more than ever un-ited by the infrastructure electricity cables and water pipes — laid down during the last years of British colonial rule and the first years of the republic.

But this physical unity has led to dissent. The latest political crisis between the Turkish Cypriot north and the Greek Cypriot south has been over electricity. With electricity cuts of 12-14 hours a day, northern Nicosia and the towns and villages of the Turkish Cypriot area have been "Beirutised" by the introduction of noisy generators in homes and shops, setting up a cacaphony in the streets whenever cuts occur. A desperate Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf De-nktash, has even threatened to bomb southern power stations unless they supply more electricity to the

After the Turkish army invaded and divided the island in 1974, the Greek Cypriots agreed to go on supplying the Turkish Cypnot area with electricity, free of charge, in exchange for water from the Turkishoccupied Morphou area. Once the Greek Cypriots developed the water resources of their area, there was no trade-off. Then the north, which did not develop its own sources, became a net importer of water from the south. This did not mean the north was dependent on the south, bowever, because both sides of the divided capital continued to receive water from Turkish-held Morphou. But this water was too saline for consumption and had to be mixed with sweet water from the Troodos mountains pro-vided by the Greek Cypriots, creating interdependcace in supply as well as shared pipelines....

developed several years ago because of rising demand on both sides of the dividing Green Line, Turkish Cypriot delay in developing their own capacity and Greek Cypriot postponement of construction of a new power plant. But the situation became acute only last September, after an explosion wrecked a Turkish Cypriot plant before it be-

ame operational. Last week, Mr. Denktash

accused Greek Cypriot "saboteurs" of tampering with parts for the new plant while "in transit". However, a U.N. technical expert said the explosion bad been caused by faulty welding during construction. This has forced the Turkish Cypriots to rely on power from two back-up gas turbine generators, which are unsuited to extended use and cost \$60,000 a day to run, and on surplus from the Greek Cypriots. "Until 1993 there was generally a surplus," stated the U.N. expert, "but last year demand exceeded supply and the Greek Cypriot electricity authority gave priority to paying rather than nonpaying consumers. Unbilled consumption from 1974 through 1994 has reached Cyprus pounds 147 million (about \$300 million)", of which the Turkish Cypriot consumer paid "only a frac-tion" to their non-paying antborities. On Jan. however, prices in the north were raised to a higher level than in the south. This will harm both the individual consumer, who has a lower standard of living than that in the south, and industry,

ing it less competitive. The electricity crisis has come at a very bad moment for the Turkish Cypriot economy. In her new Year's Message, the Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller told Turkish Cypriots that they would have to stand on their own feet economically although they could expect continuing development aid. This tough talk came in response to criticism in the Turkish Cypriot press of Mrs. Ciller's government, which was accused of withholding an estimated \$200 million in budgetary sup-

forcing prices up and mak-

Mainland Turkey has apparently taken the attitude that the Turkish Cypriots will, from now on, have to share in the economic fortunes, and misfortupes, of the motherland, recently, plagued by record. high inflation of 149.6 per cent and a 61 per cent de-preciation in the value of the Turkish lira.

This level of inflation has been imported into the of northern Cyprus where its impact has had a far greater impact than in the much larger mainland economy. Imported inflation has also combined with an accumulation of adverse local factors to produce inflation of 200-225 per cent.

LETTERS

Vital service not appreciated

To the Editor:

AS THE Director of the AMIDEAST office in Jordan, I was happy to read Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh's article (Jordan Times, Jan. 5-6) on "Cultural orientation and study abroad," as he is tacking a subject of concern to us.

As you may be aware, AMIDEAST is the place that all Jordanian students, interested in a U.S. education, must visit to take the required tests, certify documents and receive information on U.S. higher education. In addition to our advising services that focus on how to get an

admission to a U.S. university, AMIDEAST offers regularly scheduled group sessions on cultural, social and academic life in the U.S. Each year thousands of students visit our office to attend group advising sessions, use the library and other services, yet, the session on "Pre-Departure Orientation" is the least attended. Three weeks ago we offered a Pre-Departure Orientation for those who will begin their studies in the spring of 1995. After announcing it for weeks, through our office and the U.S. embassy (when students were issued their visas), only two people attended. Our experience is that unless students are required to attend such a session they won't! Those of us in the field of international education know the importance of being prepared for a new cultural experience. Information available at such sessions is the most valuable and beneficial for anyone who is about to embark on a new life experience, but most students are unconvinced of the need. Few seem to want to know the realities of that experience.

Since this is an obvious concern of Dr. Majdoubeh's, as it is ours, I would be interested in hearing any suggestions from others on bow to encourage students to be more prepared. AMIDEAST would also be willing to cooperate with any other organisation, educational institution etc. to offer these services to the public.

> Janine R. El Tal, Country Director, AMIDEAST/Jordan,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its unders on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



Jordan, Israel

(Continued from page 1)

agreement, to try to acceler-

ate the timetable of tourism,

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merce by which Jordan will

be able to export commod-

ities and products to Israel and other issues that will

make the peace treaty the

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JANUARY 14, 1988

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kind of a peace treaty that the man in the street will feel" Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur was quoted as saying that "the Jordanian people would like to see the concrete results of peace and Rabin took decisions in this direction." "It is unfortunately unde-

niable that there is hostility towards Israel among the Jordanian people," Mr. Gur was quoted as saying by the

pected to be beld after the King's talks with Mr. Rabin did not materialise. There was no explanation wby it was called off.

However, the King briefly answered reporters' ques-tions as Mr. Rabin and the delegation accompanying him were flying out. The outcome of the talks. he said, was that "we are

determined to implement what we have agreed in the peace treaty as rapidly as When the Washington De-

claration was signed on June 25, leading to an accelerated peace treaty," Mr. Rabin said. "Therefore His Malesty pace in negotiations that led to the Oct. 26 treaty, "we both agreed to he the the King and I have agreed to let the people concerned daishepherds of the process, ty with the problem by the 25th of this month to reach said the King.

The King emphasised that Thursday's meeting was very important since it underlined the approach that "beyond what the world would hopefully contribute, we would like to do whatever we can between us directly."

The King brushed aside a suggestion that Jordanians were disappointed with what they saw as the slow pace of dividends reaching them.

"I don't think that is a fact at all," said the King. "The peace treaty does not mean overnight changes. I have told my people it would take time and efforts."

In the meantime, the King noted, there have been major changes in the Jordanian-Israeli equation. "There is a buman face to the other side... we have an interna-tional border... (and) the problem of water bas been resolved," be said. It was Mr. Rabin's fourth

visit to Jordan and first after peace treaty was signed. He was accompanied by Chief of Staff Ehud Barak, Military Intelligence Chief Uri Saguy, Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and depoty bead of Mossad Evraham Haleevy, whose name has been mentioned as a possible nominee as Israel's ambassador to Jordan.

Mubarak to visit Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan wanted the final resolution to take note of its role as guardian of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem. The PLO, supported by some of the influential Arab countries, rejected the Jordanian language and included a reference to Saudi Arabia.

The summit adopted a resolution which stressed that Jerusalem was an integral part of Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and declared it capital of a future Palestinian state.

Jordan said it bad no problems with the resolution but had objections to specifie reference to Saudi Arabia withen out any reference to Jordan 31 role.

During Thursday's talks in Cairo, Jordan and Egypt agreed to revitalise the Joint Jordaman-Egyptian Higher Committee chaired by the premiers of the two coun-

The two sides also resolved problems related to the acceptance of Jordanian students at Egyptian universi-ties, Mr. Kahariti said. The minister said that his

government's policy was focused on the need to normalise Arab relations as "a strategic and not as a temporary, transitional option.

Following the talks in Cairo, Mr. Musa was quoted as saying that "Jordanian-Egyptian interests in the region are identical."

Jordan hails Mideast

(Continued from page 1)

permanent secretariat for its monitoring committee in Amman. This secretariat will forge macro-economic policies including trade, investment, finance, foreign ex-change and others. Without such harmonisation, among the regional parties, in terms of these policies, the Bank's scope of work will be constrained. Thus the two institutions will complement each other in creating a new cooperation and develop-

"Participation in the bank will not be limited to the countries which will enter into it in the initial stage. The door will be kept open for other regional and international parties to participate in

the future. "Jordan is satisfied with this outcome of the meeting. We are also satisfied that this idea, which we helped in initiating, studying and defending, is expected to see the light in the forthcoming Amman Economic Conference, due to convene in the period Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1995.

THERE ARE only two things that Vianney Mazimpaka remembers about the milliseconds after a bullet tore through his neck and just before be was swallowed by nnconsciousness. The first is falling off the roof of his house where he was trying to hide from his attackers. The second is the identity of one of the men who tried to kill him early on Saturday morning.

Leaning up from the cot on the filthy floor of the bospital in Nyamasheke and holding the bandage that covered the exit wound on the back of his head, Mr. Mazimpaka whispered a man's name.

"He was an Intera-hamwe" he said, referring to the dreaded militias that killed bundreds of thousands of people in Rwanda. "I am sure of it."

If Mr. Mazimpaka's memory and the reports by United Nations military observers are correct, then it appears that Rwanda's killers have started a campaign to stage a comeback just five months after their defeat by the rebels of the Rwandese Patriotic Front

Rwanda's defeated Hutu extremist government have regrouped and embarked on a looting and killing spree that appears aimed at destabilising the country's new government. The

A HUMAN WASTELAND: Over half a million people are believed to have died in Rwanda

sources said that elements of the former government have over the last week staged successful commando-style raids on villages bordering the shores of Lake Kivn in western Rwanda, as well as in towns in the south-east. The latter are within easy striking distance of refugee camps in Tanzania, which are well-known strongholds.

According to U.N. milit-

ary sources the forces of

of the former government. The target of the latest attack has been the village of Nyamasheke, which sits on the tip of a peninsula jutting into Lake Kivu. suffered at least six well coordinated attacks in 36-

bour period. The last attack took place against Mubumbano, a small rural community near Nyamasheke. The killers selected three bouses and attacked them with rifles

and machetés. Not even infants were

spared, two babies were injnred by macheté blows to the head, but survived. One child, his mother, father and a middle-aged woman were not so lucky.

Death squads sow new terror in Rwanda

Defeated Hutu extremists have regrouped,

Robert Block reports from Nyamasheke

Later, the neighbours and friends of those killed in the raid stood around the four mounds of dirt - three of them large enough for adults, and one perceptibly smaller, that marked the graves of the victims.

They were frightened and angry. The bandits shot these people and then cut them with machetés. We are frightened, and we need protection," said one woman in the crowd.

Combined rifles and macheté attacks are the hall mark of the Interahamwe militias, responsible for the massacres in Rwanda last April in which as many as led. U.N. sources and local residents say that the attackers operate in teams that infiltrate Rwanda by boat from ljwi, an island on the Zairean side of the lake. "The bandits come from over there," said Baltizar Seminega, a teenage boy, pointing at a valley in the island, which is visible from

Nyamasheke. "They come here hy boat and they steal from us and kill us."
U.N. officials said that

although the raids seemed to be aimed at rustling cattle and looting, they believe the attacks represent the beginning of a low-level insurgency campaign in the form of hit and run operations. "It is clear that the attackers have good intelli-gence and choose their target carefully. Many of the attacks showed a great deal of precision, said one military source. "If the aim of the former government is to try to create instability in Rwanda then it is succeed-

For months now there have been reports that former members of Rwanda's extremist government army have been training in preparation for a guerrilla war paign to avenge their defeat. Government officials in south-western Rwanda acknowledged that RPF soldiers have engaged troops of the former regime who were trying to infiltrate Rwanda from Ijwi, hut dismiss the significance of the raids. "They represent no threat at all," said

governor of Cyangugu province, which encompasses Nyamasheke. "That (former government) army across the border (in Zaire)

plined. Their threat to come back here is nothing more than a wish that they have no means to make come true." In an internal report written in October the U.N. said that the former government forces were nndergoing a reorganisation pro-

cess and were expected to

mount small-scale insurgen-

cy operations in the near

is disorganised and undisci-

Theobald Rutihunza, the

funire, prohably within six months. The report added: "The risk of such operations increases as time progresses. The size and effectiveness of future RGF (Rwanda Government Force) operations will depend on the level of outside assistance

available to them." But the south-west has not been the only area to suffer raids. At least IO people died recently in attacks on a village near the south eastern town of Kibungo. The attackers re-portedly infiltrated from Rwandan refugee camps in Tanzania,

The reorganisation, and the pubic desire by Rwan-da's former leaders to retake their country by force, led one French relief egen-cy, Medécins Sans Frontiers (MSF), to pull out of the Rwanda refugee camps last month. At the time MSF said it was "unacceptable that the international community allows humanitarian aid to so openly strengthen and legitimise the power of leaders of a regime which organised and perpetrated a genocide."

According to a leaked document obtained by the Independent, the U.N. force commander in Rwanda, Major-General Guy Tousignant, said that De-cember and January would be decisive months for the ment quotes the general as saying that if the former regime failed to live up to its promises to launch a counter attack against Rwanda around Christmas, the morale of its forces would suffer possibly an irreversible blow.

The Independent

Jordanian land not leased Jordan that Jordanian-Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

ment era in the Middle East. Russians in'final assault'

(Continued from page 1) the Russian President on Friday seeking information.

The agency said Mr. Yelt-sin had told Mr. Kohl — who is one of Moscow's staunchest Western allies - what he is doing to try to end the conflict but gave no other

The Council of Europe, meeting in Strasbourg, demanded an end to the Russian military action and said it would delay examination of Moscow's application for membership of the group of 33 countries but the door would remain open for MosIn Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher described the conflict in a television interview as a setback for demo-

cracy in Russia.
"But we shouldn't be misled into feeling that it's all over," be added, "It's not the end of that process and we need to get back on that

The secretary of Russia's security council, an inner circle of leaders headed by Mr. Yeltsin, responded by saying Moscow had had no choice hut to use force in Chechenya to prevent the Russian Federation breaking np. The decision had been painful, he

Contact group presses Serbs

(Continued from page 12) negotiations on a political settlement to the war.

The peace envoys from Russia, the United States, Britain, Germany and France briefed Bosnian government leaders on Thursday on the peace plan.

The envoys, who were due to bold more talks in Sarajevo later on Friday, demed persistent reports that the plan was now watered down to suit the Serbs.

Contact group envoys have in recent weeks depicted the peace plan as a starting point for further negotiations, instead of the "take-it-or-leave-

it" deal it started out as. This has dismayed the Bosnian government which says it will not let the big powers retreat from the plan to appease the military dominant Serbs.

The U.N. described Bosnia as relatively quiet in the past 24 hours aside from clashes in

> enclave of Srebrenica. "Sporadie small arms fire, heavy machinegun bursts and occasional shelling continued in the Bihac pocket," spokes-man Major Herve Gourme-

the northwestern Bihac en-

clave and near the eastern

lon told a news briefing. Maj. Gourmelon said a 45minute firefight between separatist Serbs and Bosnian government army units inside the Srebrenica pocket occurred after Serb forces had stealthily encroached on the U.N.-protected enclave in

the previous four days. Sporadic artillery and small arms duels ensued later in the day. U.N. observers counted 90 artillery explosions and more than 1,000 rounds of small arms fire.

process towards the peace visited Damascus two weeks

treaty with Israel, Prince Hassan referred to the Oslo agreement and the other developments leading to the signing of the treaty. "We all believe in the language of a comprehensive solution and its content as a complement to the idea of stability instead of war in the Middle East." he said, adding that there was no mathematical concept that the Syrian and Jordanian negotiations will ripen simul-

taneously. Noting that issues in the negotiations were complicated and thorny, he said it was difficult to follow up what was going on on other tracks because of the lack of coordination among the Arab

parties to the peace talks. He expressed hope that there would be a minimum level of Arab coordination which be said might develop into an aspect of joint Arab

action in the future. Prince Hassan said Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation was continuing at the regional and international levels, denying press reports that there were a kind of competition between the two countries. "In view of Jordan's size, population and economy, I do not view these reports about competition as

accurate," he said. He noted that the two countries had identical views on new political concepts such as Middle Eastern cooperation and coordination in

social and economic issues. Replying to a question on whether the channels betrade, (then Rima Khalaf), and generate a conviction in

"The daily and procedural relations are continuing but we are not familiar with the issue of the Syrian-American dialogue or the Syrian-Israeli dialogue and did not ask to be familiarised with them. There is a hasis of confidence between the two countries' leaderships and we still hope to bave a comprehensive framework of a political set-

tlement," be said. Replying to another question on Jordanian-Saudi relations, Prince Hassan said last Ramadan be thanked, on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein, King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz and Prince Salman Ben Abdul Aziz for making a donation to Jerusalem. "We think that with regards to Jerusalem, competition over good doing is legitimate and desired; we hope that the Palestinian

and this is not an issue of controversy. He said that he had the chance to meet with Prince Salman and Prince Bandar Ben Sultan in New York, explaining that the desired meeting at the level of leaderships had not materialised

citizen will get more support

Prince Hassan underlined the importance of integration between Jordan and Saudi Arabia and Jordan and other Arah Gulf countries.

"The conviction is still that we constitute a barrier in the face of an Israeli domination of the Arah economies in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf tween Jordan and Syria were region and the continuous open, he said the Jordanian threat that economic dispariminister of industry and ties create more malfunctions

and Jordanian-Saudi integration was the most aspect of Arah economic stability in the coming stage. Any Jordanian weakness will mean that this barrier and this belt will be side-stepped by Israel with its economic weight and Jordan would lose its ability to carry out a central role in the

benefit of Arah stability in the coming years," he said. He said the absence of consultations among Arab countries and baving these countries judge their interrelations through the perspectives of other parties in the world widened the gap between Arab countries and deprived them of the chance to huild mutual confidence required at this difficult stage

in Arab history. In reference to the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in Morocco, he said: "I would like to explain that Jerusalem consists of three circles, inside the walled city and those outside considered by Israel as greater Jerusalem and which Israel wants to expand to include areas from Bethlehem to Ramallah." He said the Christian

World was preparing to hold celebrations marking the year 2000 and international Jews were preparing for a celebra-tion in 1996 to mark 3000 years since the establishment of Jerusalem, But the Islamic World was preparing nothing about the Mushim rights inside the walls of the city, he said. It is unfortunate that talk about Jerusalem be only political since any vacuum that might emerge would leave the issue of Jerusalem for the Israeli religious affairs

ministry, he said. "When we talk politically, we support the Palestinians within the second and third circles in Jerusalem and we

over the fact that Jerusalem is part of the lands occupied in 1967 and that Jerusalem is not only an issue of worship and religious representation, hut an issue of a people also," he said. "We do not talk about Palestinising, Jordanising, Saudising the issue of Jerusalem because the issue is not one of the media hut an issue of having the Islamic view understood because there are equal rights concerning worship in Jerusalem."

He said Jordan had been and still is supporting having Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state and Palestinian rights without any reservations or limits.

In reply to a question on whether Israel might seek to confuse the Palestinian Authority to accuse it of inability to rule and to push towards having Jordan take responsibility over the West Bank, Prince Hassan said he viewed it the other way since "the focus is now on the Jordanian identity, specially after the tecent census and the call for citizens that the severance of ties exists only west of the river while east of the river we talk about one people and we hold tight to national uni-

"The biggest fear for us with regard to the occupied land is not the struggle betwen the national, pan-Arab or religious trends, hut is the generation that for more than a quarter of a century grew up under Israeli occupation, having the villages and cities there separated by settlements and the separation between Jerusalem and the West Bank and between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This separation might lead to closer ties with Jordan ... but might also lead to closer Palestinian-Israeli ties had no dispute with the PLO as was the case with the

Arabs of 1948." The Crown Prince reviewed the situation of Iraq and warned against Arabs following the policy of "douhle containment" of Iran and Iraq. He said such a policy could lead to fuelling extrem-

ism in the region.

Prince Hassan said he respects Islamic fundamentalism in its historical sense, but warned of radicalism in its various forms. "I stress that going back to Islam for reasons related to political deprivation or deprivation of civil and social rights can be understood. When we talk about 130 million Arabs wbose income will be less than the income of seven

million Israelis within 10 years, the bet is that there will be more extremism. Noting that Jordan man-

aged to contain the Islamic trend within the constitutional and parliamentary context as well as the framework ol the National Charter, he said Jordan was always hoping for finding solutions to the problems of extremism at the Arah and Islamic levels.

He said the idea of establishing a Middle East cooperation bank did not rise out of a vacuum but was the expression of a regional concept adding that the available mechanisms do not necessarily serve the aspired goals.

Settlers launch 'war for land'

(Continued from page 1)

The army stopped them, detaining 14 Israelis for a few

hours.

Palestinians demonstrate daily and an anti-settlement day has been declared for Tuesday with protests at three flashpoints on the West Bank — Hehron, Al Bireh and the village of Kafr Addik.

Settler leaders have also promised there will be "more surprises" for the government in the coming days. Several dozen Palestinian bedonins demonstrated Fri-

day against plans to move them off their land to allow a Jewish settlement to expand. The Jehalin tribe were expelled by Israel from their ancestral lands in the desert

in 1952 and re-settled a few kilometres from Jerusalem. "Down with occupation, down with colonisation," about 50 protestors chanted along the main Jerusalem to

The settlement of Maale

Adumim, the biggest on the West Bank with a population of 20,000, has plans to grow to 50,000 over the next decade and wants to take over

the beduin camp. The Jehalin have rejected a move to land near the rubhish dump for the Palestinian village of Abu Dis and spurned offers of financial aid as inadequate.

The government froze new settlement building after winning the 1992 elections but allowed the completion of 11,000 units already underway and encouraged construction on the West Bank

around Jerusalem. Haaretz revealed Friday that 700 families have recently moved into homes on the West Bank which the government had formally forbidden

them to occupy. The question of settlements is not due to be negotiated between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until the start of the third year of autonomy - or in May 1996.

Mexican fears unwarranted in Asia, economists say

of a Mexican-style capital outflow were still rocking Asia Friday, despite economists' advice that the worries are unfounded

Foreign investors were asking whether Mexico's currency devaluation and capital outflow crisis could happen in

But analysts and economists say Asian economies bear little resemblance to Mexico's economic circumstances that led to its currency devaluation, and investors have overreacted by moving capital out of the region.

"Anybody who compares Mexico with Hong Kong. Thailand and Indonesia is basically not very well informed," said Andrew Freris, economist with Salomon Brothers in Hong Kong.

both the need for a single

currency in the European

Merrill Lynch — Dubai

Asian economies have bigh savings rados, low currentaccount deficits relative to gross domestie product, in some cases budget surpluses. bigh debt-cover ratios and propserous growth ontlooks, economists say.

Mr. Freris said currencies in the region such as the Hong Kong dollar, Thai baht. Philippines peso and Indonesian rupiah are wobbling in investor nervousness over fears they will be unpegged from the U.S. dollar. The Hong Kong dollar is

pegged to the U.S. dollar and other Asian economies maintain their currencies in tight bands relative to the U.S. currency. lovestors fear speculators might decouple Asian countries from their oght ranges.
On Friday the Hong Kong

proud since the last crisis of

August 1993, when it was

Monetary Authority propped up its currency by withdrawing funds from the interbank market and eausing wholesale rates to spike up.

Trading in the Philippines peso was suspended temporarily when it touched the threshhold of a volatility band, and Thailand offered foreign banks one-week rates of 9.50 per cent to attract foreign capital.

"Everything that is linked to the U.S. dollar is suspect," said Mr. Freris. "People have every right to act and respond irrationally. People take very substantial losses on markets when they fall so they can't take the risk."

Enzio von Pfeil, economist with S.G. Warburg, said fundamentals in Asian economies were sound, but this would be hard to argue to foreign-based fuod managers when there is so much uncertainty in the wake of the Mexico crisis.

"The level of ignorance is so bigh by the (U.S.) retail industry generally," said Mr. Von Pfeil. "They will tar all of Asia with the same brush they have tarred Mexico with," be said. "I think it's actually very much of an overreaction. There's nothing wrong with Asian fundamentals.

Manila brokers blamed a 5.6 per ceot slump in stocks on Friday on worries about the Mexican capital outflow.

"Because of the Mexico crisis no foreign fund manager wants to go into emerging markets," said Noel Reves of Dharmala Securiões.

Friday's jitters followed Thursday's action by regional government officials to shore up their currencies and allay concern about their econo-

Indonesian officials Thursday said the government would not resort to devaluing the rupiah because the country's economic fundamentals were solid.

"Our situation is very different from that in Mexico. 1 do not see any impact in Indonesia. We remain with our prudent fiscal and monetary policy." Finance Minister Mar ie Mohammad told re-

Indooesia bas estimated the country's foreign debt will hit \$100 billion by the end of the 1995/96 fiscal year starting next April.

In Thailand, officials saw no reason for a currency fall. Bandid Nijathawom, Bank of Thailand deputy director of economic research department said: "Thailand's economy is fundamentally sound, in a strong position.

Thailand expects gross domestic product growth of 8.5 per cent and inflation of five per cent. It has a debt service ratio of 10.9 per cent. Economists were sanguine

about the longer term outlook for the region, saying Asian economies have high savings ratios and do not suffer crippling debt burdens.

"People from East Asia have penchant for saving. It's cultural - no social security to rely oo," said Bangkok bank chief economist Nimit Nontapunthawat.

China becomes world's leading energy buyer

BELJING (AFP) — China. grappling to meet energy demands that have surged along with its economie growth, is on the verge of signing a multi-billion-dollar contract for a second nuclear plant at

The drive to reduce China's estimated 20 per cent shortfall in electricity output has made it the world's leading purchaser of power plants, both large and small. nuclear, thermal or hydro. Western experts said.

Daya Bay, on Hong Kong's

doorstep.

China sits on the world's biggest-known coal reserves and ranks 10th in terms of oil reserves, but it has been quite unable to keep pace with the growing demand fuelled by double-digit growth. Official figures show that

anoual consumption has risen by eight per cent since 1980 and will pass the 980 billion kilowatt/hour mark this year and reach 1.500 billion Kw/h by the turn of the century. French Industry and External Trade Minister Jose Rossi arrived in Beijing Friday, confideot that he can clinch a contract worth up to \$2.45 billion for Daya Bay II on

sortium. The project involves French nuclear steamgenerator builder Framatome, the Franco-Briosh turbine makers GEC-Alsthom. Alcatel-Alsthom and Electricite de France (EDF), whose president Gilles Menage has been in Beijing since last Sunday.

behalf of a French-led con-

The backdrop to the talks is a warning from the power ministry to factories that they face "inevitable" power cuts in the coming months, particularly in industrial regions, coastal areas and in the

south, where some growth rates bave shot up by 20 per

Increased coal production, which reached 1.16 billion tonnes last year, cannot make up the shortfall as coal-fired energy accounts for only a little over 60 per cent of the total production.

Diesel produces less than 20 per cent, as does hydroelectric, while nuclear brings in a mere 1.5 per cent of the total, although officials hope to boost hydro-electric production to 25 per cent and ouclear to two per cent by Prime Minister Li Peng has

given the go-ahead for a massive project to build a hydroelectric plant in the Three Gorges along the Yangtze River in central China, despite environmental protests over the destruction of an area renowned for its beauty. The completion of the pro-

ect, scheduled for 2009, will bring 18,000 megawatts on line, with annual production of 84 billion KW/h. The levelling-off in the oil industry despite the discovery

of new fields turned China into a net importer last year. the head of the China National Petroleum Corporation admitted in December. Production last year was

146 million tonnes, compared with 144 million tonnes in

To cope with the shortage both in industry and also in residential needs, the government has announced plans to increase production at an annual rate of 15,000 MW up to 2000.

But to do so China will need financial help from international organisations like the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

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255in 1993 (A1 Ra i). * * Sand Resources Au-MRA) Director-Fakhreddin Al isai said Friday that tacus about reaching is an the field of ween Jordan and Re not accurate as auties were still dismy and means lo zidomation and exthe future with a pint cooperation. A The design Post Pirestment has signed company

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Swaq) 51.5 Anable prices in during the holy Ramadan (Al

Southern Europe monetary crisis spurs moves to single currency The currency crisis has shattered the EMS stability BRUSSELS (AFP) - The collapse of the Spanish peseta and the Italian lira highlights of which the EU has been so

The following report covering the period from Thursday Jan. 5, 1995 until Wednesday Jan. 11, 1995 is

provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group,

Currency Outlook

Overview

Fundamental View: We have revised higher our dollar-yen

forecast in light of further evidence that the dollar bas

probably bottomed against the yen, at least for now.

However, we maintain our view that the dollar is on a

Our new forecast is for the dollar to strengthen to near

JPY/USD 105 in three- and six-month's time before trending

We also look for the dollar to strengthen against the mark, and trade near DM/USD 1.60, 1.65 and 1.60 in three-six and

12-month's time, respectively, and have adjusted our European cross rates to reflect this. Though the dollar has been

somewhat weaker against the Dentsche mark in recent days,

that should change as market participants gear up for more

FOMC meeong — despite concerns that an increase will

aggravate the Mexico's problems - and again at or around

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: In the last few weeks we bave seen increased evidence that the dollar may bave bottomed

against the yen. We have revised our short- and medium-

term forecasts to reflect this, but continue to expect a

Our new forecast is for the dollar to strengthen to trade near JPY/USD 105 in three- and six-month's time before trending lower in 12-months ome to JPY/USD 95. There are

longer-term trend of dollar weakness.

We still expect the Fed to raise rates at the Jan. 31-Feb. 1

longer-term trend of depreciation against the yen.

lower in 12-months time to JPY/USD 95.

Union (EU) and the probdecided to broaden the margins within which EMS curlems inherent in achieving this goal. EU officials here rencies may fluctuate against each other from 2.5 to 15 per The plunge of the peseta almost to its floor level The return to stability had against the German mark fuelled optimism about

within the European Monet-ary System (EMS) coupled achieving a common European currency by the end of with the weakness not just of the lira but also of the Portuthe century. The lira left the EMS in guese escudo and the Swed-September 1992 and does not ish krona "are causing a lot of currently pose a threat to the delicate exchange mechanism concern in the European Commission," a member between EU currencies. However its fluctuations, like

those of the peseta, are having a cousiderable negative impact on the ordinary dayto-day business of the European Union which since January 1993 has been a single market where goods circulate freely.

"The effects of the depreciation of the lira and peseta are enormous and Italian exports in particularly have increased exponentially," said Peter Praet, an economic adviser to the Generale de

Banque in Brussels. These devaluations which significantly boost the exports of some EU countries were the main problem envisaged by European officials

by 100 or more basis points.

Merrill Lynch revises forecasts for key currencies

a number of reasons for near-term dollar strength: Widening

interests rate differentials between the U.S. and Japan,

indications that the Japanese are again sending capital to

U.S. markets after a long hiatus, and further deceleration of

U.S. capital outflows. At around 360 basis points, short-term

nominal interest rates spreads between the U.S. and Japan

are reaching compelling levels. With the Fed expected to increase rates at least two more omes in the next few months

and Japan unlikely to change rates, that spread could widen

Furthermore, with returns in the U.S. markets looking

more and more attractive to Japanese investors, we are

beginning to see a return of Japanese capital. At the same

time that capital inflows appear to be picking up, capital

outflows - mostly in the form of international mutual funds

- appear to be slowing now that U.S. markets are beginning

to offer more value and investors are discovering bow risky

some of those investments are. Lastly, compared to his

predecessor, the new U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin

seems more adept at assuring the markets that Washington

In the longer run, though, the buge capital imbalance between the U.S. and Japan's current accounts will cononue

to weigh on the dollar, exposing it to volatility whenever

capital inflows or outflows change significantly. In particular,

Japanese investors suffered buge losses in U.S. markets in

dollar, this will continue to be an important wild card.

Deutsche mark

Fundamental View: A "flight to quality" appears to be boosting the Deutschemark as political concerns (Spain and Italy), fiscal concerns (Sweden) and the Mexican crisis bave led to a significant rise in the value of the mark against the dollar and an even larger appreciation against European crosses. Thin holiday trading in the week between Christmas and New Year and the plumes in the value of the Mexican

and New Year and the plunge in the value of the Mexican peso began a process of mark appreciation that has yet to level off. On Dec. 26, the mark was trading at DM USD 1.58

when the margins of fluctua-tion were wideoed.

"It seems absurd to say so but the decline of the peseta and lira proves the importance of having a single cur-rency because there can be no single market without a single currency." Mr. Praet

"These monetary tensions show that there are only two possible systems — floating exchange rates or a single currency - and not a system

which is in between." he said. The problem, say EU officials, is that neither Italy nor Spain is economically ready to move towards a common currency. They do not fulfill criteria laid down io the Maastricht Treaty on closer European unity, notably with regard to budget deficits. debts, inflation and currency stability.

Even though political tur-moil is largely to blame for the collapse of the lira and the peseta, the economic performances of Italy and Spain are well below those of their EU partners.

EÙ experts disagree on what course to take. Some believe speedy adoption of a single currency by a "hard core" of the most prosperous FU states would make things worse for countries with the weakest currencies.

Adversely, others say a strong ECU (European Currency Unit) would encourage other countries to bring their economies up to standard so as to join in. "If some states go ahead

and adopt the single currency first, ihat will stimulate others to improve their economic policies," said Italy's European Internal Market Commissioner Mario Mono, a renowned economist.
The so-called "hard-core"

as it is now envisaged would be based on the German mark, the Dutch guilder, the Belgian-Luxembourg franc, the Austrian schilling and the

compared to DM/USD 1.54 today. Some have suggested that

recent mark appreciation is due to expectations that the

We do not believe this is the case and point to falling

Euro/DM futures - where expectations for short-rates have:

been revised down in recent weeks - as evidence that the

market does not believe this either. We expect the Bundes-

bank to wait until the second half of this year before lifting

the Lombard or the discount rate, though the repo rate is

likely to drift bigher in the first half. The dollar should make

up some ground if, as we expect, the Fed increases rates again at the Jan. 31-Feb. 1 FOMC meeting. Our three-, six-and 12-month forecast is DM/USD 1.60, 1.65, 1.60, respec-

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound was steady against

the dollar in the last week as pound weakness against the mark was matched by dollar weakness against the mark. Currently, the pound is trading at USD/GBP 1.563 and DM/GBP 2.40 compared to USD/GBP 1.561 and DM/GBP

2.43 in the prior week. Like some of the other European

crosses, political concerns may be infinencing the value of

the mark. Today's debate in the House of Commons on

membership of key committees could lead to a government

defeat, weakening Prime Minister John Major's ability to

We think John Major will squeak by, but expect the government to remain under pressure throughout 1995 — a

source of volatility for the pound. With more interest rate

increases on the borizon — probably March — we expect the pound to rebound against the mark and trade near our three-month forecast of DM/GBP 2.45 and to appreciate further to our 12- month forecast of DM/GBP 2.50. In line

with our forecast for stronger dollar appreciation against the

mark, we expect the pound to slip to USD/GBP 1.53 in the next three months before recovering to USD/GBP 1.56 in

carry out his legislative agenda.

12-month's time.

Bundesbank will raise rates sooner than expected.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime continues to be a time when you can perceive ways to leap forward to new and interesting concepts. Mid-day especially is the best time to make practical application of these ideas but the rest of your day works well too. ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Showing more affection for allies

brings good results during the daytime, but steer clear of arguments in the evening. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can get your environment improved considerably now and be more comfortable in the future.

Be kind with fellow associates. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day to get into

recreations best enjoyed by your associates, but tonight stay at home with loved ones and save money. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Show your loved ones that yoo are willing to cooperate with them more and you get good

results. Be calm, cool and poised. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a fine day for telling your associates how much you like them. Be sure not to criticise. Thus you can improve relationships.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Find some way of adding to present income and also get your property affairs in better order.

Try to cut down on expenses.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you tackle some definite personal aims in a positive fashioo and are ingenious, you can gain them in a very successful manner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day for ferreting out the truth in relationships with others, then use this knowledge wisely and very productively. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get busy at personal aims which are difficult to handle during work days, and use positive methods. Drive with care on the highway.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a fine day to get outside affairs handled for which you have had little time of late. If you state your aims, you will gain support.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Very interesting ideas can be yours now if you are alert. One who thinks differently from you

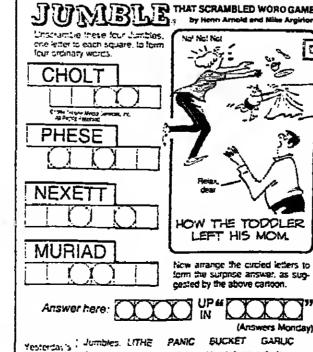
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan what should be done to bring more happiness to your mate and then carry through with ideas. Show that you are dependable.

Birthstone of January: Garnet - Rose Quartz

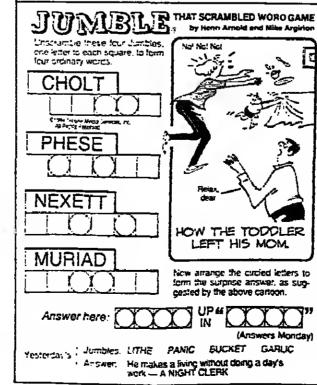
THE Daily Crossword by Avery P. Bromfield



"He's not flirting with you! He had a fast-food milkshake at lunch and his mouth hasn't returned to normal yet!"



THE BETTER HALF.



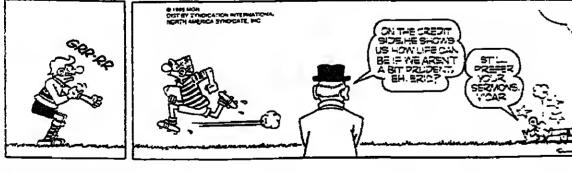
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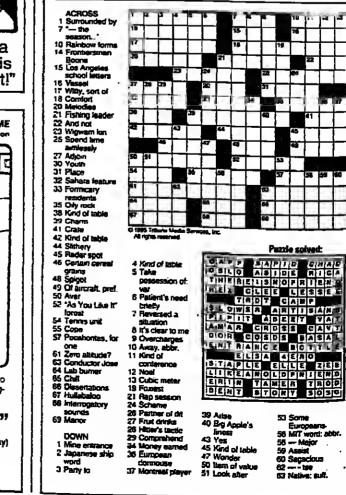
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A review

of economic news

from the Arabic press

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cialists stress that Jorda-

nian companies are able to

compete with Israeli drug

firms and are ready to ex-

port pharmaceutical pro-

ducts to Israel and the

Palestinian territories.

Jordanian drug companies

compete well in terms of

quality and price against

U.S. and European firms.

having exported drugs

worth \$100 million to many

Arab and East European

countries in 1993 (Al Ra'i).

the two parties were still dis-

cussing ways and means to

pertise in the future with a

view for joint cooperation. A

said Thursday that Africa-

Israel Investment has signed

an agreement to establish an

Israeli-Jordanian company

for the energy, aviation, tour-

ism, real estate and agricul-

** An Italian commercial and industrial delegation will visit the Kingdom on Jan. 23.

1995. The delegation, which

groups 35 top businessmen and industrialists, will hold talks with key officials in various economic areas. Af-

ter Jordan, the delegation

will travel to the Palestinian

self-rule territories (Al Dus-

** According to accurate

figures and statistics, the

level of poverty in 1994

reached 1g per cent, of which

five per cent was absolute

poverty. A family with a JD

120 monthly income and liv-

ing in a rented home is consi-

dered below poverty line while the family which does

not have to pay rent is consi-

dered below the poverty line at JD 96 monthly income (Al

** Statistics show that the

highest demand by travellers

on Royal Jordanian planes and at the duty free market at Queen Alia Airport was for

cigarettes, cigars, cosmetics, perfumes and souvenirs (Al

कंक्र Jordanian investors are

currently in the process of

setting up the "International

Company for Medical Invest-

ments" with a JD 8 million

capital to be used for building a centre for treatment of CNS humours by Gamma knife. According to Isam Hawam-deh, head of the founding

committee, the centre will be

the first in the Middle East

and the 66th in the world to

have the Gamma knife

equipment at a cost of \$4.5

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where some grown we shot up by 20 per eached 1.16 billion ast year cannot make shortfall as coal-fired shorman as coat-fired coopins for only a er oo per cent of the produces less than cent: as does hydro while nuclear bring though officials hope hydro-electric proo 25 per cent and

to two per cent by Minister Li Penglis go-anead for a magect to build a hydn. plant in the Three Florid China, de pronmental protest destruction of an awaed for its beauty eduled for 2009, will 000 megawans on con XW n. veiling-off in the of despite the discovery t importer last year, of the China Nation Senia Controlation in December.

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million (Ai Aswaq). ** Preparations are under way at the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that enough at and vegetables as well as canned foodstuff are available at reasonable prices in the market during the holy month of Ramadan (Al

AMMAN FEMANCIAL MARKET MAK CHENN MOON - 21 Philory 640178 / 643178 COMPANY S MANUE THÈ IN VOLUME JD 924, 955 143, 986 143, 756 4.244 443, 873 9.564 36, 884 3.735 30, 943 1.640 39, 104 2.830 39, 104 2.830 97, 713 2.890 97, 713 2.890 97, 713 2.890 97, 744 3.750 1,445 3.650 19, 446 3.310 29, 1046 3.800 36, 775 1.738 ARAS BANK JURIAN MATIONAL BANK JURIAN MATIONAL BANK / NEW MANG OF JORDAN MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK MUNICIPAL BANK THE BURK TO ENTROPY DEADS JOHN INVESTIGATE JOHN COLF BURK JOHN INVESTIGATE JOHN COLF BURK JOHN INVESTIGATE JOHN IN E02284 88848 3077006 FINES (COME) 155 ARANIAN SEAS ERSTRANCE FORDAM FRENCE TRAUMANCE FANCOUS ESTRANCE & RETERISHANCE BOLL LAND DESURANCE ARAS MUZON INTERNACIONAL INSUMANCE AL-RISH AL-ARLIX INSUMANCE 20274 Index strepts: 13 CHARGE : -0.72% consumption JORDAFIAN MACHIC FORMS JORDAFIAN MACHIC FORMS /MEN MAND DISTRICT MACHRICTH 1.370 1.520 0.970 3.780 4.950 3.420 1.370 1.360 1.030 0.750 2.410 2.500 1.378 1.520 à☆ The Ministry of Agricul-7.529 0.610 3.789 4.98d 3.200 3.420 1.370 1.330 1.030 1.720 13.400 3.470 3.500 0.399 3.400 4.800 3.17d 3.479 1.370 1.260 1.030 6.75e 12.350 3.420 3.480 ture recommended a total ANA PRIMATICAL ENTRY JOHAN RATIONAL SETTINE LINES MATIORAL PORTPOLIO SECURITIES RAMA SERVEL INVESTIMENT JOHAN GULF REAL ESTATE (SVISTAMENT JOHAN FOLTO RESTORE LINES MACLEMAN SOUTO RESTORE LINES MACLEMAN SOUTO RESTORE LAMA'S OUTTER HORSE SOUTO COMMODER SOUT ANALS DECER. FOR INVESTIGET & EDUCATION CO. stoppage of beef imports from Romania after it bas been confirmed that cows and calves were carrying mberculosis. A ministry offi-cial emphasised that there were gaps in the trading pro-...... 1011494 THESE SCHOOLS 1 12 CHANGE 1 -3.437 cess and in providing health certificates in Romania. Previous shipments, amounting to 3,822 heads, have been quarantined and strict measures were taken to ensure that they are not slaughtered unless cleared by the special department at the ministry and veterninary doctors at the slaughter house. Romanian lambs are not affected and it is still permitted to import them (Al Ra'i). 16.450 1.030 7.190 0.430 1.430 3.330 4.840 1.540 4.300 4.300 4.300 4.300 1.500 3.350 1.740 1.740 4.400 3.330 1.000 7.150 d.970 1.490 4.130 3.200 3.130 4.380 4.340 0.670 5.300 2.770 1.000 2.770 1.000 CHIVERIAL CHOICELL LOUISTEELS JOHNNI INDUSTRIES 6 HALTON/JUNCO HATTONIAL CAREE 6 WIRE MANUFACTURES JOHNNI HULPHO-CHOICEALS JOHNNI EULPHO-CHOICEALS JANN CERTER FOR FEBRICA 6 CHOICEALS KANTEER LIVESTRIESE AL MODERN DECOSTRIES PRODSTRIAL RESCURCES INDOCTODAL DECTOR 3191014 FROET WINDEP: 12: GEARD TOTAL PRESELECT MARKET TRADUCK ACTIVITY FOR THE PROLESS 107/01/1995 - 11/01/1995; COMMING. 4 MANUE 1.000 6.740 0.500 1.900 6.410 1.230 1.200 1.930 1.250 -2.370 CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING 3 STORAGE JOSEBAN TRADER PACTIFITHS RETOLE KART FOR SEVE. 6 TRADER CO. RARKA PATWACK DELYMBILTY CHILTRIS CO. FOR DEGASTERS LAND THE ARMS POSSECTAL SEVERAPPOINT ARMS POSSECTAL SEVERAPES ☆☆ Natural Resources Au-0.340 0.300 0.300 1.350 2.440 1.130 1.200 1.820 1.350 thority (NRA) Director-General Fakhreddin Al Daghestani said Friday that press reports about reaching MACTORAL CHICATES INCOMPANIES CO.LTG MACTORAL TREATES & PLANTES INC. CO. TORINAS MAY CAMES COMPANY MACTORAS MOVEMBER TRUBETES A MACTORAL MOVEMBER COMPANIES MACTORAL TOWNSON & CHARLES MACTORAL MACTORAL MACTORAL MACTORAL MACTORAL MACTORAL MACTORAL MACTORAL MACTORAL an agreement in the field of energy between Jordan and Israel were not accurate as

F nancial Markets	Joyflati In co-operat Cairo Amm	ion with	alk -	
Currency	1 MTH	9 MILES	6 MTHS	12 MT1
U.S. Pollar	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.06
Sterling Pound	5.75	6.18	6.68	7.25
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.87	5.06	5.56
Swiss Franc	8.43	8.75	4.00	4.37
French Franc	5.57	5.75	6.25	6.15
Jopanese Yen	2.12	2.25	2.31	2,50
Kuropean Current	y Unit 5.81	6.06	6.40	7.00

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Date: 12/1/1995

SEASD TOTAL

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1.0876	1.0930
0,4546	0.4569
0.5417	0,3444
0.1317	0.1324
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Other Currenties	Chack	te/1/1999
Ситтемсу	Bild	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.1390	1.8510
Lebanese Lira*	0.041715	0.04288
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1872
Kuwaiti Dinar	2,3100	2,5600
Quiari Riyai	6.1900	6.1928
Egyptian Pered	0.2000	0.2140
Omeni Riyal	1.8040	1,8160
UAE Dicham	0.1850	0.1908
Greek Drachma*	0:2615	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1,4075	1,5125

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Share prices decline slightly despite higher turnover at AFM

By a Jordan Tir.; staff reporter

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) shot up last week, but prices registered a slight decline as investors switched holdings based on already announced year-end figures of some companies and expected announcements from others, brokers said Friday.

They said optimism sparked by the change in government that there would be increased coordination among the various financial authorities of the country was riding high in the market. They expected turnover to continue to increase with prices remaining largely stable after taking into account dividend announce-

They also said that they expected a good part of the fresh stock issued by existing companies which increased their capital last year and those floated by new entities

to enter the market in earnest in the new year, contributing to a new momentum on the trading floor.

The weekly report of the AFM said trading volume during last week was JD 8.9 million, up 97.8 per cent from the previous week's JD 4.5 million.

The general share price index based on 60 major companies closed at 144.7 points. down three points, or 0.2 per cent, from the week's opening of 145 points, but still higher than the 143.6 points seen at the beginning of the year.

The report said 3.5 million shares changed hands during the week under 4,702 con-

The industrial sector accounted for JD 3.7 million, or 41.6 per cent, of the turnover, followed by commer-cial banks and financial institutions with JD 3.1 million, or 34.8 per cent, the services sector with JD 2 million, or 22.5 per cent, and

Asia and Middle East replace eastern Europe for Vietnam workers

HANOI (AFP) - Asia and the Middle East are replacing eastern Europe as the main destinations for Vietnamese workers, a report from the labour ministry said Wednesday.

Most Vieinamese workers departing for foreign workplaces in 1994 went to Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Lebanon and Libya, primarily to work in the textile, electronics and construction industries, according to the report carried by local news-

In Kuwait, Qatar and Yemen, rapidly developing public bealth sectors are attracting Vietnamese doctors and nurses, the report said.

According to the union journal Lao Dong, some 10,000 Vietnamese were working overseas lası year. But that figure is low, as it doesn't count the Vietnamese in the former communist states of eastern Europe. which had been their traditional foreign workplace.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, many thousands of Vietnamese remained to work illegally, according to Vietnamese sources.

Overseas workers provide hundreds of millions of dollars in hard curtency for Vietnam, where chronic unemployment hovers at 20 per

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

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insurance stock with JD 100,000. or 1.1 per cent.

The sectoral indices closed with varying changes: The services sector 2.2 points or 1.6 per cent lower, the insurance sector one point, or 0.7 per cent lower and the industrial sector 0.7 points, or 0.5 per cent lower, while the commercial banks and financial institutions index closed 0.4 points, or 0.3 per cent

higher. Shares of 87 companies were traded during the week; when trading closed on Wednesday, 26 of them showed gains, 54 showed declines and seven showed no

Brokers said investors had picked up new optimism in the new year that the relative stagnation of the market during the year on the trading floor war deslined to change as the new government moves to implement basic reforms in the various economic sectors.

Another element behind the optimism was also that the government would soon be launching infrastructure projects that were announced in 1994. Brokers noted that the trend in the Jordanian market was to look to the government for signs of economic activity rather than the private sector, although this trend is slowly changing.

"It will take some time before investors shift their traditional approach based on signals from the government and focus more on the actual performance of the private sector as the determining factor in the market. said a broker, who cannot be identified by name under

standing market regulations. At the moment, 'many are highly hopeful that the launching of government infrastructure projects would lead to increased economy activity in the private sector, and this sentiment accounts for a large part of the optimism in the market," added the brok-

The immediate market indication was a continued rise in turnover but prices might come down as investors adjust holdings in line with expecied dividend announce ment, according to most AFM brokers. However, some investors

were also apprehensive that the new finance minister. Basel Jardaneb, long known to be tough in implementing restrictive measures whenever needed, might move to squeeze commercial credit in the market as a means to keep inflation under control. If that happens, the brok-

ers said, it is highly likely that

AFM share prices might suf-

UNCTAD official arrives ahead of seminar on GSP

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN - A senior official of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) arrived in Jordan Friday on a several-day visit ahead of a workshop on the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) in trade and how Jordanian exporters could take better advantage of the preferential treatment that developed_ countries offer to imports

from developing countries. Stefano Inama, the UN-CTAD official, will hold talks: with government officials as well as Amman Chamber of Industry officials headed by the chamber's president, Khaldoun Abu Hassan, on preparations for the Jan. 22-24 workshop, said Ali Dajani, an adviser at the cham-ber.

The main purpose of the workshop, expected to be addressed by American. Japanese, Canadian and other international experts on GSP as well as officials from UNCTAD, is to streamline the Kingdom's trade under the GSP system.

Also addressing the gather-ing will be a senior representative of the delegation of the European Commission. the executive arm of the European Union, and another representing the United States. Mr. Dajani said the gov-

ernment had already moved to ensure a well-coordinated approach to the issue by designating the Amman Chamber of Industry as the sole authority empowered to issue the necessary certificates that should accompany Jordanian goods exported under the GSP system.

"Until now there were several bodies which could issue the certificates and this had led to problems of noncoordination, with little accurate data available on Jordanian trade under the GSP system," said Mr. Dajani. Market sources said such a

state of affairs had led to misuse of the preferential treatment available to Jordan. They cited as an example certifications covering up. to four million shirts while the actual production capaccountry was around 250,000. The rest of the shirts came from outside sources and were certified as Jordanian after slight changes, perhaps in labelling, and exported under the GSP sys-

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importing countries to tighten their conditions on imports from Jordan, and the Kingdom was deprived of opportunities to export its own products since the importers also-imposed certain

quota, the sources said. Mr. Dajani would not comment directly on who was responsible for such practices, but he expressed hope that this month's Amman seminar would clear the air and streamline the entire structure of Jordan's application of the GSP privileges.

According to UNCTAD, the seminar "is expected to enhance trade potentialities and to help diversify the base of the Mediterranean countries in the new trade environment created by the conclusion of the Uruguary Round (of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - GATT) and the launching of new initiatives. such as the new European Union Mediterranean policy and the outcome of the Middle East/North Africa sum-mit" held in Casablanca, Morocco, late last year.

The Amman seminar is expected to elaborate on the GSP schemes available to Jordanian exporters and the agreements reached between the Kingdom and the European Union on cooperation in trade.

A Jordanian-Italian roundtable of husinessmen and officials is also scheduled to be held on Jan. 24, the last day of the seminar on GSP. It will be attended by about 35 Italian businessmen led by Giorgio Marini, president of the Rome-based Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Abu Hassan will chair the Jordanian delegation to the roundtable, which will "provide an opportunity... to discuss bilateral market access issues and possibilities of joint ventures," an UN-CTAD statement said.

The seminar is part of a series being organised in the Mediterranean region financed by the government of Italy, a member of the European Union. .

Italy has assumed a highprofile approach to Jordan in terms of economic cooperation and trade relations in the wake of the launching of the rad-istacii peace process i 1991 and arranged a series of visits by Italian businessmen and experts to Jordan seeking to enbance ties and advise Jordanian businessmen on bow to improve their production and marketing

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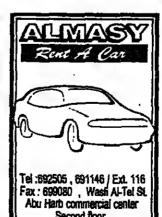
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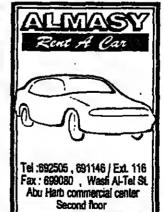
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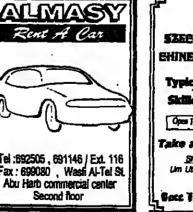
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Jordan women's basketball

JBF regroups national team after decade-long absence

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Baskethall Federation (JBF) put smiles back on a handful of faces when it announced Thursday that the women's national basketball team would be finally regrouped after decade-long absence.

Thirty-three players attended the meeting chaired by JBF President Awwad Haddad who had informal "chat" with the players explaining the reasons for failing to regroup the team earlier and drawing out the plan for the

"The JBF has always faced the obstacle of funding national teams, as well as securing the courts for practice. However, this has taken too long and we are intent on overcoming these difficulties with the cooperation of the players, the JBF's women's basketball committee, the coaches and the clubs." Mr. Haddad told the gathering.
The JBF had last named a national team in Dec. 1992

and the players had a similar meeting in early 1993 to decide dates. However they were not contacted later and the matter remained unresolved.

Asked by the players if Thursday's meeting would be a repetition. Mr. Haddad said: 'I do not blame past JBF boards for failing to regroup the teams as I know the obstacles. However, this board will try to make a differance. It is not acceptable for Jordanian basketball to have youth's and men's teams and not have a national women's team." he asserted.

Mr. Haddad told the players that the JBF had the Asian women's championship scheduled to take place in Japan in July on its agenda and hoped the team would be ready provided the JBF and its women committee manage to come up with sponsorship to cover the expenses.

"I am sure the Jordanian team would fare well in such a championship, I am aware of the players' capabilities and hope they will have a chance to represent the country." he

Youth had allocated a JD 12,000 budget for the JBF in 1995. However, total expenses for training and participating in the youth's, the women's and the men's Asian championships this year would amount to JD 60,000 at

Muna Janho, who heads the women's committee, said the JBF was determined to secure funds through the Friends of Basketball group who contribute JD 100 annually and hy holding a charity march to help raise funds for financing the women team's participation in the Asian

Attending players represented Al Orthodoxi, Jazireh, Al Ahli, Homentmen and Abu Nusair clubs.

Al Orthodoxi are the reigning champions regained the title from Al Jazireh in 1994 as Abu Nusair finished second. while titleholders Al Jazireh abruptly pulled out of the competition. Al Ahli had pulled out before the start while Homentmen did not compete for the second consecutive year.

Al Orthodoxi had only lost the title to Al Jazireh last year. Though missing the efforts of team captain Lara Masri Al Naber this season. Shireen Abu Khader is back on the team together with Jihan Abdul Noor, Carol Seikalv.

Al Jazireh also have a good lineup including Tala Al Mauge. Jumana Salti, Rana Husseini and Suhair Makusi. Women's basketball began its latest comeback in the 1989-90 season when three teams, Al Orthodoxi, Al Ahli. and Homentmen competed in the championship which was

In 1991, Al Jazireh joined the women's championship and finished fourth after the three aforemennoned teams. In the 1992 competition. Al Jazireh clinched third place from Homentmen, and in 1993 defied expectations by clinching the title away from Al Orthodoxi who came in second. Al Ahli were third and Abu Nusair fourth.

insignificant event which is

usually completed in two

weeks. lacking attendance

The fact that a women's

national team has been ab-

sent for the past decade has

also had a negative impact

on women's baskethall.

However, players are now

optimistic that the JBF is

serious about making some

changes on the women's

basketball arena after the

announcement Thursday of

regrouping the national

and interest from all.

Six schools compete in AAC tournament

in 1994.

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Realising that women's basketball players teams never get their fare share of competition, a group of school teams have come together and organised a tournament that will keep them busy for over two weeks.

The tournament begins Saturday at the sports complex of Amman Baccafaureate School (ABS). with six teams taking part: the Sisters of Nazareth School (SNS), the American Community School (ACS), the Rosary School. the National Orthodox School (NOS), the Christian Missionary School (CMS) and the ABS.

The participating teams are joined under the banner of the Amman Athletic Conference (AAC) and seek to make the event an annual one.

Chief organiser Fadi Sabbah, who is head coach at the SNS, said that the AAC had been in contact with the Jordan Basketball Federation which will provide technical assistance in refereeing.

We hope the event will take place every year dur-ing the winter break, Players are enthusiastic about the idea, and it will only be a step towards enhancing women's hasketball which has long been treated with an offhand approach," Mr. Sabbah told the Jordan Times Friday.

The six teams will play the first round from the 14th to the 21st of January. The second round begins

The only other events organised in the country is the Jordan Basketball Federation's (JBF) women's championship and the Ministry of Education's annual schools competition which was won by the NOS

The JBF's competition has been organised on an annual basis since 1989. However, the number of competing teams fluctuates and is limited to four or five. The standard has been going downhill and there is no longer the usual competitive edge among the teams who sense it is an

Schedule of 1st round

ABS vs ACS NAZ vs CMS Sat. Jan. 14 ACS vs NOS Sun Jan. 15 ABS vs RC Mon. Jan. 16 ABS vs NAZ ACS vs CMS Tue Jan. 17 ABS 48 NOS RC vs ACS RC vs CMS Wed Jan. 18 ACS vs NAZ Thurs. Jan. 19 NAZ VS. NOS RC vs NAZ. CMS vs. NOS Fri Jan. 20 Sat. Jan. 21 RC vs NOS ABS vs CMS

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Ramtha, Hussein upset; Wihdat still lead

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ramtha, who entered the 20th week of the first division soccer championship only one point behind leaders Al Wihdat, were stunned after their surprising 1-0 defeat to Al Qadissieh Thursday. Mustafa Adam scored the

match's only goal in the 84th minute, after Al Ramtha's striker Mouffaq Abu Hedeib lost a penalty shot earlier in The win was vital for Al

Qadissieh who are struggling for their place in the division In Friday's matches, Al Arabi upset Al Hussein 3-2,

Al Wihdat kept the lead after their 1-1 draw with Al Abli while Shahab Al Hussein beat Al Karmel 2-1. (See details and standings in Sunday's roundup).

Inter deny Bergkam for sale

MILAN (R) - Italian club Internazionale Milan warned England's Newcastle United that unhappy striker Dennis Bergkamp was not for sale.

"Bergkamp is not available," said Inter director Roberto Tavecchio in response to British press reported saying the Dutchman was Newcastle's prime target, after the sale of Andy Cole to Manchester United. Bergkamp, who has said in

the past he would like to play in England, returned to action on Wednesday when he played for 45 minutes in a friendly against fourth division Novara. Sidelined since October 30

with a groin injury, Bergkamp could now win a recall for Sunday's bome game with Newcastle manager Kevin

Keegan is flush with cash after receiving a British record six milion pounds sterling (\$9.38 million) for Cole in a deal which stunned fans of the Premier League club.

Ahli overcome Arabi to retain Jordan handball title

By Roufan Nahhas Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ahli retained the Kingdom's handhall championship Thursday after beating Al Arabi 32/29 in overtime in the title-deciding match at the Sport Palace after a 27/27 tie. Dr. Sari Hamdan, president of the Jordan Handball Federation deputised for Minister of Youth Awad Roleifat to attend the match.

Al Ahli/Al Arabi 32/29: It was clear from the beginning the tension both teams experienced during the first half as they tried to build attacks but which ended unsuccessfully in spite of the pressure which Al Ahli's players Atef Abed Qader and Nahil Jamil put on Al Arabi's unorganised

On the other hand, Al Arabi's performance looked weak and lacked focus as they tried to score from outside the penalty zone of Al Ahli depending on Muatasem Al Mansi and Ibrahim Al Buhairi but attacks were stopped by Al Ahli's defence. The first half ended 18/14 for Al

In the second balf, Al Arabi regained confidence

and looked more organised in building fatal attacks to take the lead in the 17th minute and continued the match on the same rhythm until Al Ahli's Mohammad Hamarshneh tied the game

The match had an overtime of ten minutes in which both teams tried to take advantage of every second but Al Ahli were more persistent to end the first half of the overtime 3/1 led by players Atef Abed Qader, Mohammad Taha and Hussein Ahmad.

Al Arabi's Hassan Bani Hani was sent out for using his foot to shoot the ball at the audience. in the second overtime

Al Arabi's Mohammad Abu Lail and Moatasem Al Mansi were sent out which gave Al Ahli the chance to score more and win the

"We don't have papers

done and there are still a

couple of points to iron out,

but if we get on a fast track

it's conceivable we could

bave an announcement some-

time next week.

times reported.

championship 32/29.
At the end of the Dr. Sari Hamdan hands over the medals for th champions and prizes for the referees. Meanwhile Deputy Munir Sobar and the president of the Alif Club Mohammad Baza dogh handed prizes for the best players Jihad Qtaishat/ Salt, Jamal Fateh Allah/At Arabi, and best goal keeper for the 1994 season Nael

Meanwhile Yarmouk Al Shouneh reserved 5th places in the championship after beating Amman 32/26 in a postponed match.

Ghazi/Amman.

After this season's championship two teams were relegated to the second division - Al Orthodoxi and Al Bareha. Al Jalil and. Tarif clubs will join the first division in the upcomin

FINAL STANDINGS

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Rams close to deal to move to St. Louis John Shaw was quoted as

LOS ANGELES (R) - The Los Angeles Rams football team is close to an agreement for a move to St. Louis, the Los Angeles Times has re-The move, which would

require National Football League approval at the annual March Owners' Meetings in Phoenix, might also include the sale of 40 per cent of the team to Stan Kroenke, a Missouri businessman who would pay \$80 million, the newspaper said.

Details and paperwork, which could be completed in a few days, appear to be the only obstacles keeping the NFI team from announcing their intention to leave Southern California, it said. "I think we are close to an

agreement," Rams president

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The programme is intensive. (Classes are in the morning and meet 20 hours per week, Saturday -- Wednesday).

Those interested, please call at the Language Centre for registration or further information. Registration begins on Saturday,

Transatlantic in the third time in the swimmer fends Arena

off shark attack and with 33 possible PARIS (R) — A Frenchmanis and 13 rebounds.
on a trouble-plagued solo (as led 61-54 with swim across the Atlantic hard in third quarter beaten off shark boat on the same third quarter

beaten off shark bent on bit sping on 2 142 tear to ing off his leg, swim sponsor; commanding 75 5r. said Friday. adust outscoring the An unscathed Guy Dalage all in the third quar reported by radio taht he was biding Phoenix to just swimming along feeling

The Rams, who play at a stadium in Anaheim, south of Los Angeles, bave fought a "down in the dumps" Thursday when he "felt a presence" in the water near lim.
Turning his head, he saw losing battle for fans against southern California's other pro football team, the Los the 2.5-metre (eight-foot) shark, jaws open and poised to chomp down on his righ Angeles Raiders, and have made no secret of their desire

Without time to grab he santi-shark pistol, Dela managed to fend off managed to fend of managed to fen The Rams went 4-12 in 1994, ending the seasons with a streak of seven · consecutive losses. Monday, the team fired its coach, Chuck Knox. kroenke, who has family ties to Wal-Mart Department

managed to fend off in shark by kicking it on in 12/R) — South Konea nose with his flipper, he said to pour hundreds of After repelling the attack to dollars into build-he quickly scrambled on a sadums and rether raft that floats alongsid actising venues if it him and was able to phone the stage the 2/n)? graph the fish before it swap (up, bid committee away, the radio message said to find find and to the radio message said to find find to the radio message said to find find to the radio message said to find find to the radio message said to the to the radio me Stores, would be given right of first refusal should the rest of the team ever be sold, the

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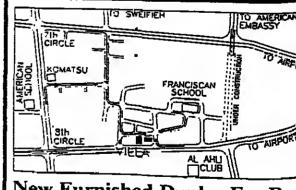
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Hornets centre Alonzo Mouran

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Chung said.

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Charlotte Hornets centre Alonzo Mourning Nuggets' centre Dikembe Mutombo (right) loses control of the ball as Denver looks on.

Cavaliers upset Phoenix Suns

PHOENIX (R) — Terrell 4-of-1g shooting (22 per cent)
Brandoo set the tone for — and turned the hall over Cleveland with an explosive first quarter as the Cavaliers handed the Phoenix Suns just their second home loss of the seasoo, 107-96, in a battle of division leaders

Brandoo scored 1g of Cleveland's first 24 points on his way to a career-high 30point performance to help halt the Suns' five-game win-

ning streak.
Clevelaod also got 19 points and 10 rebounds from Tyrone Hill as Phoenix lost for just the third time io its last 18 games, falling to 16-2 at the America West Arena this season.

f shark attal Danny Manning paced the Phoenix attack with 33 points and Charles Barkley added 15 points and 13 rebounds. The Cavs led 61-54 with 8:46 left in the third quarter before going on a 14-2 tear to grab a commanding 75-56.

Cleveland outscoring the Suns 29-17 in the third quarter -- holding Phoenix to just just six times in the game. In San Antonio, Seao Elliott scored 32 points and Vinny Del Negro added a 27 as the Spurs overcame the absence of star centre David

Robinson to score a 113-108 victory over the Miami Heat. Del Negro tied Chuck Person's club record with five three-pointers in the first half as San Aotonio cruised to its sixth straight win and 13th in its last 14 games.

Robinson did not dress due to a strained lower hack mus-

Miami polled within ooe at 86-85 with 11:06 left in the fourth quarter oo a technical free throw by Glen Rice. But Elliott sparked the Spurs with four points during a game-breaking 10-2 run that left the Spurs leading 96-87. Kevin Willis had 30 points

to lead Miami, which has lost the first four games of its six-game road trip. In Deover, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf had eight points to key a 12-2 second quarter run as the Nuggets pulled away from Dallas en route to a 94-7g rout of the Maver-

Abdul-Rauf, who finished with 13 points, had a pair of three-pointers to help the Nuggets turn a 35-32 advantage with 3:30 left in the second quarter into a 47-34 halftime hulge.

The Nuggets would lead hy as many as 21 and never let the Mavericks close than 13 in the second half.

Dikembe Mutombo had 15 points, 12 rebounds, and seven blocked shots and Rodney Rogers added 16 points to pace Denver, while Jim Jackson and Jamal Mashhurn each had 15 points to lead the

RESULTS

San Antonio 113, Miami 108 Denver 94, Dallas 78 Cleveland 107, Phoenix 96

South Korea ready to invest massively for 2002 World Cup

SEOUL (R) - South Korea is ready to pour hundreds of millions of dollars into huilding new stadiums and re-Wins its hid to stage the 2002 four times.
World Cup, hid committee FIFA ha members said Friday.

It would also raise some \$30 millioo to finance its campaign to hold the finals, said Dhung Mong-Joon, president of the Korea Football Association and vice-president of FIFA, world soccer's governing body.

"We will be more than well prepared," he told a group of foreign reporters in Seoul. The committee said 22 cities in South Korea had applied to provide venues for he games and were working plans to huild new stadia or to renovate existing facili-

"Reconstruction only will cost several hundred millions of dollars," Chung said. Seoul plans to upgrade the main stadium and other facilities huilt for the 1988 Olym-

pic Games as the foundation

of its bid.

Chung said South Korea was the best qualified Asian Nation to host the cup as it novating existing venues if it had qualified for the finals

FIFA has iodicated the tournament will be held in Asia in 2002, although Mexico has made a surprise bid to host the competition it staged

in 1970 and 1986. Of the three cootenders for 2002, Japan appears South Korea's most serious rival, but it has never got past the qoalifying rounds. The bid winner is to be announced io

"If you talk about Asian foothall, oo one can deny that Korea is foremost," said Shio Dong-Won, executive vice-chairman of the Korean

bidding committee.
He and Chung accused the
Japanese of spending excessive on thier campaign. Chung estimated Japan was spending \$100 million for the

bid alone. Chung said South Korea would like to hold the eveot

jointly with communist North Korea, although co-hosting would need a change in FIFA

bitter cold war foes, although prospects for detente have looked somewhat hrighter with the recent warming of ties hetween the United States and North Korea.

Chung said contacts he had had with North Korean soccer officials gave him "a hunch the North is interested

in co-hosting" the cup.
North Korea, whose team reached the World Cup finals in England in 1966, has made no formal statement about co-hosting the competition.

He said estimates showed the compedition could generate \$30 hillion io terms of boosted husiness, tourism revenue and other spin-offs. "Football can be a very

profitable industry," he said. "Korea is already competitive in seven major industries. Our purpose is to make football the eighth most com-

Can Agassi stand the heat in battle with world No. 1 Sampras

MELBOURNE (AFP) The hlistering heat of next week's Australian Open will see Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras resume hostilities in their all-American battle for teonis supremacy.

Can flash Andre beat perfect Pete. For the image conscious Agassi, with actress Brooke Shields on his arm, the Melbourne Grand Slam event will be an acid test. Can he muster the consistency to chip away at Sampras's mam-

"People talk about being number one, but the reality is you've got to want to be number ooe every time you step on the court and you've got to want to be number one everytime you step on the court for over a year," Agassi

Agassi, making his first trip to the Australian Open after a flurry of last-minute withdrawals, is the game's most charismaoc player.

The 24-year-old American, minus his long hair, arrived in Australia on his private jet earlier this week to do his final tune-up at a six-man exhibitioo tournament in Adelaide.

Agassi embarked on what could be a watershed year at a career-high second in the rankings after becoming the first unseeded player in almost 30 years to carry off the U.S. Open last Septem-

The flamboyant Agassi's new-found steely attitude is attributed to the biring of sage American pro Brad Gilbert as his new coach last March. Heading into the year's first Grand Slam there is a

vawning 1,848 points gap in the rankings between Agassi and Sampras, who has been the world's premier player for 89 weeks. Yet there are those who

feel that Sampras is perceptively coming hack to the Sampras said he was un-

beatable in the first half of 1994. It's hard to argue. He won a career-high 10 titles, had the best match record (74-11) and won the Australian Open and his second Wimhledon, Blighted by foot and ham-

string injuries in the second in store.

In a summit rivalry that mis is craving for, Sampras leads Agassi 7-5 in head-tohead encounters.

Sampras's path to the final looms as a minefield as he first has to negotiate a poten-tial hazardous hottom half of the draw.

part of '94, Sampras suddenly began to look mortal, hust statistically he still has much The two Koreas still remain Q.1 -Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:

\$Void TAKQJ754 :643 \$Q104
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

\$\frac{1}{4} \frac{3}{4} \frac{2}{2}

What action do you take?

Q.2-As South, vulnerable, you ↑AKJ632 TQ AK74 ↑Q3 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East I + Pass 2 + Pass He is scheduled to face What do you hid now?

Grand Slam Cup champion Magnus Larsson in the rouod of 16, two-time winner Jim Courier or Michael Stich in the quarters, and possibly Goran Ivanisevic or Michael



Pete Sampras

Chang in the semi-finals. Rejuvenated Boris Becker looks in terrific fettle.

His sizeable entourage in Australia includes a fitness trainer in the form of ex-high jumper Carlo Thraenhardt. who has helped ensure the 1991 champion will return to Melhourne io far hetter shape than in 1992 and 1993.

His sights now are clearly set on regaining the top spot he last held in 1991, although he rates Agassi as another serious contender.

Stefan Edberg, also like Becker in Agassi's side of the draw, believes he still can win his seventh Grand Slam, but that retrieving the world No. 1 he relinquished to Courier in 1992 was "too far fetched now" as he approaches 29 this month.

Jim Courier is another who likes playing in the fierce heat winning hack-to-hack Australian Opens in 1992-93.

Courier had a wretched year in 1994. He didn't carry off any titles, but his victory in Adelaide last week broke a barren 16 months and he can be dangerous on the slick Rebound Ace surface.

No. 1 ranking beckons for Sanchez Vicario

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario can dethrone sidelined Steffi Graf as world No. 1 if she can accumulate enough honus points eo route to winning the Australian Open tennis

Twelve months ago the bouncy Spaniard was overwhelmed by Graf inside an hour here in an emharrassingly one-sided final — now 23-year-old Sanchez Vicario is oo the verge of usurping

Graf's mantle as queen. She cleaned up eight single titles, more than any other player in 1994, and claimed her second French Open crown at Roland Garros and became the first Spanish woman to win the U.S.

Graf, a four-time winner here, pulled out of the Australian Open last week with a calf muscle injury amid cootinuing concerns about a hack complaint.

Sanchez Vicario, for so long in the shadow of Graf and Monica Seles, can emerge and take over at No.

GOREN BRIDGE

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.3-East-West vulnerable, as

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
t Dbl Pass ?
What do you bid now?

What action do you take?

1 if she can beat enough seeded players along the way to claiming the year's first Grand Slam.

"I know I am close (to the world No. 1), hut I don't feel under any pressure." she said

The Spaniard is top seed at a Grand Slam for the first time and here Friday was drawn in the same half as fifth seed Gabriela Sabaoni and third seed Jana Novotna. Sanchez Vicario will meet

China's Fang Li in the first round and is seeded to meet Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva, the ninth seed, in the round of 16, Japan's Kimiko Date in the quarters and either Novotna or Sahatina in the semis.

Novotna kicks off agaiost Canadian Patricia Hy-Boulais, while Sabatini lines up against American Marianne Werdel.

In the hottom half of the draw, second seed Conchita Martinez is scheduled to hump into France's Julie Halard, the 16th seed, in the round of 16, sixth seed Lindsay Davenport in the quarters and fourth seed Mary Pierce of Fraoce in the semis.

#A8 V82 PA1094 #A9762 The bidding has proceeded:

North Easl South West 1 Pass 2 Pass ?

\$985 A94 Q72 \$8763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

What do you bid now?

Reduced NHL season will be odd

NEW YORK (AFP) — As National Hockey League players approved a deal to save a 1995 season delayed in a lahour dispute, U.S. and Canadian fans began pondering the oddest race ever for the Stanley Cup trophy.

Instead of each team playing 84 regular-season games over 61/2 months, NHL clubs are expected to cram 48 games into 31/2 months and extend playoffs through the end of June, a month later

than ever before. A revised schedule will include games only hetween conference foes meaning western teams will play only against themselves and the same for eastern teams until the champion from each region plays for the league title.

The New York Rangers won the league crown last year for the first time since 1940, touching off a celehration for long-suffering follow-

But Rangers' coach Mike Keenan departed after the season in a tiff with management, turning up as coach in St. Louis. His return was long awaited hy New York fans. But with the clubs in opposite conferences, it can only come this season if hoth teams make the finals.

The reduced schedule means other hardships for North American fans. The Rangers will not be seen in Los Angeles or Vancouver, whose Canucks pushed the Ranges to the seventh and final game of last season's title series.

Los Angeles Kings' star Wayne Gretzky will not play in New York, Boston, Quebec or Montreal, Chicago and Detroit, long-time NHL teams, will not play at Boston or Montreal in venerable arenas housing hockey for the final time hefore being torn down.

Suddenly every game is critical for determining which 16 teams reach the playoffs.



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Iraqis bitter and angry as U.N. maintains sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) - Impoverished Iraqis on Friday reacted with frustration and anger to the U.N. Security Council's decision to maintain sanctions against Iraq. with special ire reserved for the United States' U.N.

"Who does that wretched witch think she is? Before every review she demands something new from Iraq." said an old woman of Amhassador Madeleine Albright, who opposed the lifting of the crippling sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The old woman, carrying her last set of porcelain cups to sell at a Friday market, was one of thousands of Iraqis who hraved Baghdad's chill morning to offer person-

al belongings for sale.
In the past two weeks prices have soared in Baghdad as the dinar tumbled against the U.S. dollar, People feared the council decision to continue with the embargo might lead to further price rises.

punishing and for what?" asked an old man, offering his last two chickens for sale. We do not understand the game. We are the victims -

the ordinary people."
Some cursed the U.S. and Ambassador Alhright, who is now a household name in

The blanket embargo is biting deep, It has devastated trag's economy, now in the grip of hyper-inflation and suffering acute shortage of essential foodstuffs and

Mediators from the five-

nation "contact group" press-ed the Serbs on Friday to

accept the latest peace plan

for ending nearly three years

But the talks in the Bos-

nian Serb headquarters at

Pale took place against a

background of gathering cri-

sis in international efforts to

bring peace to former Yugos-

sion to order U.N. troops out

saw little chance that Croatia

would change its mind on

throwing out 15,000 U.N.

troops because its ultimatum

left little room for man-

to discuss later Friday Presi-

dent Franjo Tudjman's deci-

sion to end the mandate of

U.N. forces when it expires

on March 31 and make sure

they leave within three

Secretary-General Boutros

Mr. Tudjman told U.N.

months after that.

The Security Council was

United Nations officials

of war in Bosnia.

of its territory.

medical supplies.

ernment wages which have not kept up with inflation. Many civil servants, including teachers, refuse to work

as their monthly salaries are less than what they would pay for transport to their work-Public services are a sham-

bles and Baghdad municipality has already warned that the city's sewage system, serving more than four million people, was bound to collapse in the absence of pumping machines and spare

Iraq's health system, once among the best in the third world, is crumhling. Hospital doctors ask patients to bring their own blankets, plates and spoons.

The government, short of hard cash to pay for nrgent needs, has reduced food rations by about half, forcing more people to rely on the inflated market prices.

The hardships have made Iraqis turn their wrath on Western and Arah states, particularly the United States and Knwait. There are no signs of urban discontent with the government of President Saddam Hussein despite the

The country's most in-fluential paper Babel said the U.S. was concocting claims to prolong the emhargo and vowed Baghdad would crush Washington's "exposed con-

spiracy. Ambassador Albright told the council on Thursday her government was "determined to oppose any modification of the sanctions regime until Iraq has moved to comply with its outstanding obliga-

Contact group presses

country was untenable and

that U.N. troops only solidi-

fied the status quo by being stationed in Serb-held terri-

Serbs in Croatia's Krajina

region, who fought Zagreb

when it declared independ-

ence from Yugoslavia in

1991, hold a third of Croatia

and Mr. Tudjman's govern-

ment has no control over

U.N. officials fear the de-

parture of the U.N. force

from Croatia will bring about

tween Serbs and Croats that

would have catastrophic con-

sequences for efforts to

Envoys from the "contact

group" held talks with the

Bosnian Serb military and

political leadership on Friday

in an attempt to persuade

them to accept the peace

Bosnian Serb leader Rado-

van Karadzic said the meet-

ing was overshadowed by a

decision by the U.N. Security

achieve peace in Bosnia.

a resumption of fighting be-

Serbs on peace plan

Iran's mission at the United Nations meanwhile denied U.S. claims that Iraq was selling contraband oil through Iran, Tehran's offi-cial news agency IRNA said on Friday.

"The Iranian mission at the United Nations Thursday brushed aside the allegations made hy the U.S. envoy at the Security council on the sale of Iraqi oil through Iran, terming it as Washington's propaganda campaign against Iran," IRNA said.

The United States accused iIraq on Thursday of selling oil through Iran for \$5 a harrel instead of using a U.N.-approved scheme permitting limited sales providing Baghdad between \$8 and \$9 a barrel to buy humanitarian supplies.

IRNA quoted a press re-lease by Iran's U.N. mission as saying: "Unduly involving Iran in the sale of Iraqi oil serves only the propaganda campaign of the United States against Iran while doing disservice to the efforts of the Security Council."

"The mission added that Iran, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, has reported to the United Nations and the Security Council Sanctions Committee on Dec. 15, 1994 and June 24, 1994, of the measures it has taken including the impoundment of several cargo vessels in and around the Persian Gulf and Arvad Rud to enforce the ban against the sale of Iraqi oil," IRNA added.

Council to "punish" Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia by de-

nying them shipments of oil

The Security Council also

voted on Thursday night to extend by 100 days the sus-

pension of certain sanctions

against rump Yugoslavia in recognition of its decision to

from Serbia.

peace talks.



WOUNDED: A wounded Chechen fighter is evacuated in Grozny. Russia launched a final assault on the Chechen capital on Friday and sent reinforcements of several hundred naval personnel including marines to breakaway bombardment of Grozny, ending a full in fighting that followed a Moscow ceasefire offer (AFP photo)

EIB funds available for Jordan-Israel water projects

By P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN - The European Union (EU) has agreed in principle to extend financing for joint Israeli-Jordanian water projects after studies establish the feasibility of the projects, a senior European Commission official said Fri-

Yves Gazzo, head of the Delegation of European Commission in Jordan, said the commission had also offered to finance the feasi-

"There is an agreement in principle that the (EU) would provide financing for the projects after feasibility studies are conducted on the projects," Mir. Gazzo told the

The Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 calls

let Jordan have an additional 215 million cubic metres of water every year. These include at least two dams, a pipeline and a water purification plant.

The annex on water of the peace treaty says: "Operation and maintenance of the systems on Israeli territory that supply Jordan with water, with their electricity supply, shall be Israel's responsibility. The operation and maintenance of the new systems that serve only Jordan will be contracted at Jordan's expense to authorities or companies selected by Jor-

Estimates have put the cost of the projects at around \$400 million, with the cost of the dams and water purification plant put at between \$150

Lebanon is in tolerable," Mr.

"You must create a situa-

interest in continuing this war

example, there will he

250,000 refugees in Beirut, I

think this would come to an

More than I30 people,

mostly Lebanese civilians.

were killed and up to 300,000

forced to flee their homes in

Israeli opposition politi-

cians have said the under-

standings, coupled with con-

cern over deadlocked peace

talks with Syria and Leba-

non, have tied the army's

of attrition. How? If.

pipeline would pump 50 million cubic metres a year from Lake Tiberias in northern-Israel to Jordan. No definite split-ups were available.

The estimated cost of the

pipeline project, expected to be huilt with Jordanian financing, was not immediately known. Mr. Gazzo said the Euro-

pean Union was making available 1.8 billion European currency units (ECUs), or about \$2.2 billion, for "regional projects" as part of the Middle East peace process. "We have told the parties

that financing could be available for good and feasible projects from this fund, which is administered by the European Investment Bank (EIB), an arm of the Enropean Union, Mr. Gazzo said. EIB financing is offered at soft terms carrying low inAccording to diplomatic sources, Israel is arguing that it is giving "free water" and, as such, it should not be asked to bear any cost of the projects. "They want to consider water as a sort of down-

should raise the necessary financing," said a diplomat familiar with the issue. It was not immediately known whether the issue was discussed in detail between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during a four-hour visit Mr. Rabin paid to

payment and say that Jordan

Amman on Thursday. In comments to reporters after the talks, Mr. Rabin, however, referred to the need to address Jordan's water problems as a bilateral issue and part of the Oct. 26 peace accord.

for several distinct projects to

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

bility studies.

Jordan Times.

million and \$180 million. The

"We are at war, and in war

Deace Drocess, 1412 vowed to oust Israel from the 15-kilometre-wide zone.

For the most part, the boront according to the undertroops from the south. Asked about Jewish settle-

that has thrown to a wrench in the West Bank.

d the Ciaza settle ments, allowed to stay for

be moved to create defensi-

"We must go immediately settlements, and reduce the

Ex-Mossad chief urges Lebanon attacks

TEL AVIV (R) - A former Israeli spymaster said in an send 250,000 refugees fleeing to Beirut.

cut off the supply of arms and fuel to Serbs in Bosnia. Mr. Kradzic, who has con-sistently rejected the peace plan drafted last summer, however, expressed the hope there would be progress in "I am afraid the last seven or eight months have been in vain but I hope the apcoming targets.

four months will result in satisfactory steps," he told reporters in the Bosnian Serb headquarters of Pale, just outside Sarajevo. The main warring factions m Bosnia have signed a fourmonth ceasefire intended to provide breathing space for

(Continued on page7)

Zamir said of Hizbollah interview published on Fri-day Israel should combat attacks in the buffer zone Israel occupies in South Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon. "The army knows Lebanon by nnleashing a how to put an end to it." military operation that would tion such that the Lebanese and the Syrians won't have an

Ex-Mossad chief Zvi Zamir told Yechoth Ahronoth daily the army should act despite U.S. and Syrianbrokered understandings which ended a ferocions Israeli-air-and-artillery ouslaught in July, 1993 with a ban on attacking civilian

But Mr. Zamir, who sent hit teams abroad to hunt down Palestinian figures in a tit-for-tat assassination war in the 1970s, took a dovish line on peace moves with the Palestinians, saying Israel should uproot Jewish settlements in Gaza and the West

bands in fighting Hizbollah. Mr. Zamir said Syria, main power hroker in Lebanon "What is going on today in with 35,000 troops there,

the 1993 raids.

end."

could curb Hizbollah if it

must act as one does in war. The Syrians must understand that it is impossible to conduct talks on the one hand, and on the other, to use Hizbollah against us." A bitter opponent of the

der conflict has been played standings. On a few occasions Israel shelled and bombed villages following attacks. The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) responded when civilians were burt by firing rockets at northern Israel towns.

Lebanese-Israeh talks have gone nowhere since they began in 1991. Beirut, which closely coordinates its negotiating posture with Syria, demands Israel pull all its

ments, the sensitive dispute

into already troubled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, Mr. Zamir said he favoured uprooting all settlements in the Gaza Strip and many of those

now under the 1993 peace deal, could not be protected. They will always be a burden for us, they will always be victims of terror." Mr. Zamir, Mossad chief from 1968-74, said many

West Bank settlements must hie blocs in areas Israel needs for its security. He said the sides, due to discuss settlements by mid-1996, should decide the issue now.

for a final agreement, remove

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5 Egyptian iournalists abandon hunger strike

CAIRO (R) - Five Egyptian journalists have abandoned a hunger strike after up to eight days fasting in protest at the detention of prominent writer and pro-Islamist politician Adel Hussein, one of their allies said on Friday.

Magdi Hussein, editor of the Islamist newspaper Al Shaab and a newphew of the writer, said the hunger strikers stopped because Adel Hussein told them he was worried about their health and that they had already achieved most of their aims.

He told them the harassment had stopped and that he had been moved out of the awful cell he was in." he told

Ibrahim Nafie, head of the Union of Journalists, had also assured them the authorities would not renew the detention order against Adel Hussein for a further 15 days next week, he added.

Mr. Hussein has been in iail for three weeks on suspicion that he possessed leaflets from the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamie Group), the main organisation fighting the government. Mr. Hussem says be knows nothing about the leaflets, found on the seat of a plane several months ago.

U.N. envoys advises aid agencies to quit Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (Agencies) - The U.N. special envoy to Somalia said on Friday all U.N. agencies and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) should pull their international staff out of Mogadishn to avoid kidnappers

and attacks. But Victor Gbeho said he helieved a March 31 U.N. troops withdrawal would be followed only by elashes rather than a return to fullscale civil war and the pullout might even hasten peace.

He said U.N. agencies had separate mandates and would decide for themselves whether to remain after U.N. troops left but he had recommended all international aid workers be pulled out.

"I have already advised them not to risk it because o'. the instability here and the propensity of Somalia to take hostages and attack foreigners." he said. "Until there is evidence that will no longer. be the case I will not advise them to stay."

Mr. Gbeho told Reuters in an interview one reason why

fighting for the past two years concentrated on the warswept capital was because the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) was based there with "buge assets" which Somalis wanted. "As long as we were the largest employer in Soma-

lia... the leaders of the poli-

tical factions and elders were

dependent on UNOSOM.

They never believed we were

serious about peace.

away. People are getting thrown out of their work and we are terminating their con-

"Now a new reality, a new consciousness is coming npon the leaders... I believe this in itself will make them a little more peaceful, a little more realistic," Mr. Gbeho said. The envoy said many agen-

cies already based in Kenya could continue to operate with Somali staff in Mogadishu_ U.N. agencies met in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on

Friday to decide whether to join a suspension of nonemergency operations in Mogadishu by NGOs in a bid to force kidnappers to release French aid worker Rudy Maro.

Siad Barre remains buried

The remains of late Somali dietator Mobammad Siad Barre were buried in his home village of Garbahaar-rey in southwestern Somalia Thursday, his family reported Friday. Siad Barre died in exite in

Nigeria on Jan. 2 of a heart attack Village authorities built a make-shift airstrip for the Nigerian air force C-130 which brought Siad Barre's body from Lagos.

Siad Barre assumed power in a coup d'etat in 1969. He was overthrown by a coalition of clans in a bloody civil war in January 1991.

1 said killed and several hurt in Bahrain clashes

NICOSIA (AFP) - One person was shot dead and several wounded in fresh clashes between demonstrators and security forces in Bahrain, in the worst violence for a month, witnesses and diplomatic sources said

The sources, contacted by telephone from Nicosia, said the clashes erupted late Thursday in the mostly Shiite villages of Diraz, Beni Jamrah, Abu Shibaa, Barbar, Jid Hafs and Sanabes, on the road to Budaya, northwest of

Manama. The dead man was named as 25-year-old Mohsen Al Fatlawi. Tyres set ablaze by demon-

strators filled the villages with black smoke overnight. Tension was still running high on Friday, and the road to Budaya, 15 kilometres from the capital, was closed.

Demonstrators called for the return of parliamentary, democracy and for political reforms, as well as the release of prisoners. Slogans were painted on the walls of houses in the villages.

It was the worst violence since protests broke out in the Gulf emirate in mid-December after the arrest of a prominent Shifte clerie, the sources said. Clashes also occurred in the town of Sitra, northeast of Manama.

Diplomats and witnesses said the Bahraini security forces opened fire with real bullets, tear-gas and rubber. builets, as several belicopters

hovered overhead. They were also backed by a

Saudi anti-riot unit. Around 100 troop carriers were posted around the village of Diraz on Friday, the sources said. Eight Saudi troop carriers were sighted the previous day near Barbar, after having crossed the border following last month's

The London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat, meanwhile, said Bahraini authorities had freed more than 150 demonstrators arrested in

Quoting Bahraini government sources, the daily said a total of 400 people have been arrested in the violence. But last month's clashes had "not interrupted" trade or the run-

ning of government.

According to the Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain based in London, 2,486 people have been arrested since the start of the violence which flared after the arrest of Sheikh Ali Salman on Dec. 5.

The opposition in exile has reported new troubles almost daily with protesters demanding the release of all those arrested and a restoration of parliament suspended in

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain has said 15 people died in the violence in December, but the Sunni-led government has only acknowledged the death of one policeman. to the outside world

Car crashes into Buckingham Palace in London

LONDON (R) - A Briton drove his car into the front gates of Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace residence in London Friday causing one of the gates to collèpse, police said. The gate fell on top of the Volkswagen Polo sparking a security alert Polo sparking a security alert and the driver, who was not injured, was taken to a nearby police station where detectives were trying to establish the cause of the crash. The driver, in his 20s, drove into the gates at about 04.30 GMT. There were no further details of the accident im-mediately available.

Smoking banned in New York's public places

NEW YORK (AFP) -Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has hanned smoking in New York's restaurants, outdoor stadiums, zoos and work-places in a sweeping new measure intended to create a healthier environment in the U.S. metropolis. "Thousands and thousands of hives have been destroyed" by smoking, Mr. Giuliam said after signing the legislation. "The factthat tobacco smoke is poisonous is clear," he said. New York restaurant owners lobbied frantically against the measure which is set to come into force on April 10, arguing that the law would lead to financial ruin. Smoking is banned in dining areas of all restaurants seating more than 35 people, which accounts for 80 per cent of all New York eateries. In work places, smoking is restricted to separately ventilated rooms and private offices when no more than three people are present. More than 100 cities in the United States, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, have banned smoking in all restaurants.

Scientists fill in a galactic void

TUCSON, Arizona (AFP) -Scientists using higherpowered telescopes to scan faint galaxies in an area once thought to be a great cosmic void. Astronomers found 50 previously unknown galaxies n a region called Bootes Void some 700 million light years from Earth, according to reports. "It was a region that was thought to be totally devoid of any galaxies," said Greg Aldering of the University of Minnesota. "We've surveyed two thirds of it now and have found 50," he added. A previous survey in 1981 with less sensitive telescopes found no galaxies and scientists then called the area a rare cosmic void. The discovery of the new galaxies still leaves Bootes Void a vast emptiness compared to other regions in the universe.
Other areas around the universe the size of Bootes Void may contain hundreds or thousands of galaxies. "It has only about a third of the material that is average for such an area;" Aldering said.

Vietnam gives top officials English lessons

HANOI (AFP) - Vietnam is giving English classes to its top government officials following an order by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet obliging cadres to learn at least one foreign language, a report said. About 40 deputy ministers and heads of government departments began classes at the National Administration Academy in Hanoi last mouth, the Tuoi Tre newspaper said quoting an official source. By the end of the one-year course the officials will be able to work m English and communicate with English-speaking partners, the tri-weekly newspaper said. The classes come after Mr. Kier's August 1994 directive on foreign language and as Vietnam battles to attract foreign investment and to join the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which uses Em glish as its common language. English has become the most widely used foreign language in Vietnam over recent years as an increasing number of foreign businessmen and officials began coming here after Hanoi's doors began opening

